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THE INDIAN RAILWAY

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.

THE BEST AND MOST COMPLETE GUIDE IN INDIA.

Time and Fare Tables of all Indian Railways, Steam Boats, and Daks, Places of interest Inland and along the Coast, Postal and Telegraphic information, &c., &c.

COLOURED MAP OF INDIA.

"Bombay Gazette" Press, Fort, Bombay.

The Bombay Gazette.

No. 50,931—NEW SERIES.

BOMBAY :—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1897.

ESTABLISHED 1818.

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DEPARTURES FOR EUROPE.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	SATURDAY, 2 P.M.
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. DeHorne	27th Feb.
B.I. CALEDONIA	7558	W. B. Andrews	8th March.
* GANGES	4206	T. F. Creery	13th „
B.I. AUSTRALIA	6901	I. Reeves	20th „
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. DeHorne	27th „
B.I. INDIA	8000	R. F. Briscoe	3rd April.
* GANGES	4206	T. F. Creery	10th „
B.I. PENINSULAR	5287	W. A. Wheler	17th „
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. De Horne	24th „
B.I. OCEANA	6603	E. Stewart	1st May.
* GANGES	4206	T. F. Creery	8th „
B.I. CALEDONIA	7558	W. B. Andrews	15th „

The Steamers marked B.I. proceed to BRINDISI, PLYMOUTH and LONDON direct.

The Steamers marked * proceed to Aden only, and Passengers tranship to a Steamer for BRINDISI, PLYMOUTH and LONDON.

In order to suit the convenience of travellers during the prevalence of the existing epidemic in Bombay, the P. & O. Company have arranged that Passengers arriving by the Mail trains in Bombay can proceed direct on board the outgoing Mail steamers on the morning of sailing, and breakfast and luncheon will be served at the usual hours. A steamer to convey Passengers will leave the Ballard Pier at 7-30 a.m.

Heavy baggage must be sent to the Ballard Pier (not Mazagon) before 8 a.m. on the day of sailing.

Before the departure of the Mail steamer, it is necessary for the Health Officer of the Port to hold a medical inspection of the Passengers and crew, and it is particularly requested that Passengers will muster on the quarter-deck at 1-15 p.m., in order that the necessary inspection may take place with as little delay as possible.

A Steam Tender leaves the Ballard Pier at noon on the day of sailing, to convey Passengers on board, and only hand packages will be received. The attention of Passengers is called to the importance of having their Baggage labelled with Port of Destination.

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The Company's STEAMERS LEAVE BOMBAY FORTNIGHTLY, usually on WEDNESDAYS, taking Passengers for the STRAITS, CHINA, and JAPAN, and Return Tickets are issued on favourable terms.

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For further particulars apply to

I. M. SHIELDS,
Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Company.

Bombay 19th February, 1897.

AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S S. N. Co.

UNDER MAIL CONTRACT WITH THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

ACCELERATED SERVICE TO TRIESTE, *VIA* ADEN, SUEZ, AND PORT SAID.

Steamer	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on
IMPERATOR	G. Nicolich	4,140	1st Mar. 1897.
IMPERATRIX	T. Rassevich	4,213	1st Apl. 1897.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Deck
TRIESTE, VENICE, Or BRINDISI	Rs. 600	Rs. 325	Rs. 100

Steamers for BOMBAY leave TRIESTE on the 3rd, and BRINDISI on the 6th of each month.

A Surgeon and Stewardess on board of every Steamer.

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Steamers.	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on.
MEDUSA	G. Wallusching	2,709	12th March.
MARIA VALERIE	A. Fellner	4,235	12th Apl.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY BY THIS ROUTE.

	2nd Class.	Deck.
TRIESTE or VENICE	Rs. 375	Rs. 150

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A Surgeon and a Stewardess on board of every Steamer.

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By either Accelerated or Ordinary Service to TRIESTE.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.
AVAILABLE for 6 MONTHS	Rs. 960	Rs. 575
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STEAM TO COLOMBO, PENANG, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, AND KOBE.

Steamer	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on
VINDOBONA	C. Bellen	4,351	25th Feb., 1897.

Connecting at Colombo with the s.s. AGLAIA to Madras Calcutta.

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E. SCARPA,
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Sassoon House, 50, Church Gate Street, Bombay, Jan. 22, 1897.

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SPECIAL reductions for MISSIONARIES and RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.
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FOR KURRACHEE AND PERSIAN GULF

S. S. "KAPURTHALA," 1,122 tons, on the 25th February, at noon, calling at Kurrachee, Gwadar Muscat, Bunder Abbas, Linga, Bushire, Fao, and Busreh, in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR COAST AND CALCUTTA.

S. S. "KHANDALLA," 2040 tons, about 25th February.

FOR COAST PORTS AND RANGOON.

S. S. "CULNA," 1,984 tons, about 26th February.

FOR ADEN, LAMOO, MOMBASSA, AND ZANZIBAR.

S. S. "CANARA," 1,902 tons, on or about 27th February.

FOR SEYCHELLES, MOMBASSA, ZANZIBAR, AND DELAGOA BAY.

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MELBOURNE	4080	Duchateau	16th April ..

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NOTICE.

I HEREBY give notice that Mr. EDULJI NANABHOY DAVUR, is NO LONGER in my SERVICE, and the POWER of ATTORNEY given by me to him dated 18th October, 1894, has been CANCELLED.

A. de BILAT.

Bombay, 24th February, 1897.

NOTICE is hereby given that anybody found PASTING POSTERS on our OFFICE PREMISES, will be PROSECUTED.

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24th February, 1897.

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BANKERS and AGENTS throughout India, Burmah, Ceylon and in London, Edinburgh and Dublin.

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SPECIAL RATES are offered for short term deposits during the busy season.

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By Order,
C. BERESFORD,
Manager.

Esplanade Road, Bombay, 8th February, 1897.

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UNEQUALLED BENEFITS
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OFFERS.

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INVESTED IN
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EXCEEDS ONE CRORE AND TWELVE LACS.

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Working Expenses are the Lowest of any Company of the same age.

Intending Assurers should realize how low expenses of management go towards increasing their benefits and should never fail to inquire as to a Company's expenditure,—for by a high or low rate of expense, the management can be judged.

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MARCKS & Co., Ld.,
JEWELLERS,
BOMBAY AND POONA.

NOTICES.

BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

TO SEASON TICKET HOLDERS.

ON account of the large number of Passengers now applying for SEASON TICKETS, and the limited space available in which to issue them, passengers wishing to renew their Tickets are advised to do so as early as possible.

In order also to further reduce inconvenience it is hereby notified that Tickets will be available up to the 3rd day of the month succeeding that in which they would ordinarily expire.

PASSENGERS living at ANDHERI and MALAD are informed that SEASON TICKETS to Church Gate can be obtained on application to the Station Masters concerned.

C. CROMMELIN,
Traffic Manager.

Traffic Manager's Offices, Bombay, 22nd February, 1897.

MADRAS RACES.

SECOND SPRING MEETING 1897.

OWNERS are reminded that the 2nd Entrances for the 2nd Spring Meeting to be held on the 9th, 11th and 13th March, 1897, CLOSE on MONDAY, the 1st March, 1897.

Special attention is drawn to first para. of the General Condition No. 9.

J. O. HOOD.
Secretary, Madras Races.

NOTICE.

WITH a view to preventing the BUBONIC FEVER, which is now committing such ravages in Bombay, spreading to Hyderabad where many people are fleeing for safety, the Government of His Highness the Nizam are adopting certain precautionary measures. These are:—

(1) The detention at Wadi of all Second and Third Class Passengers, from Stations west of Wadi, for a few hours, to admit of a thorough examination and the treatment, by duly qualified Medical Officers, of any one found to be ill. Females will be attended to by a Lady Doctor. First Class Passengers, being few in number, are examined immediately on the arrival of the trains, and passed at once, or detained for treatment, as may be considered desirable.

(2) Registers are maintained at Wadi Station of all passengers coming from the Bombay side, and of their addresses while here. This will enable the local Medical Officers to have passengers under observation for a week or ten days, so that any case of illness can be at once attended to, and approved methods of disinfecting used to prevent the spread of the contagion.

(3) All Through Booking to Stations on the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways from Stations west of Wadi is strictly prohibited. Fresh tickets must therefore be purchased at Wadi.

(4) The importation into Hyderabad Territory of any food-grains from Poona or any Stations west of Poona is prohibited. Any such consignments of grain will not be permitted to pass the Customs Houses.

(5) There is a Refreshment Room at Wadi Station and also a Dharamsala, so that all classes of passengers can be accommodated during their enforced stay there.

It will be seen that His Highness' Government are endeavouring to make the restrictions as little irksome as possible, considering how grave is the danger that threatens. But the effect of these measures will be considerably neutralized unless passengers of all classes co-operate with the Government, and thus render unnecessary any resort to more stringent measures. All passengers are, therefore, earnestly requested to frankly and truly answer all the questions put by the Medical Officers at Wadi and also at Vikarabad, for the earlier a case is taken in hand the greater the chance of recovery.

HORMASJEE N. VAKEEL,
Secy., H. H. the Nizam's Govt.,
Judicial, Police and General Depnts. (Medical).

Hyderabad, 8th February, 1897.

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The BATAVIA FIRE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	Fl	3,000,000
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Sirdar's Palace, Apollo Street, Fort, Bombay.

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BOMBAY BANK AND STOCK LIST.

BANKS.

	Shares.	Amount.	Paid-up.	Last Half-Yearly Divid.	Cash Rate.
[illegible] BANKS.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Bank of Bombay	20,000	500	all	10 p. c. 1 bon.	1,330
Bank of Bengal	10,000	500	all	10 pr. ct.	,300
Bank of Madras	110,000	500	all	10 pr. ct.	1,315
Commercial & Ld. Mge	10,000 15,000	100	100 75	10. p. c.	145
EXCHANGE BANKS.					
Agra	100,000	£10	all	5 pr. ct.	3
Charter Bank	40,000	£20	£20	7 pr. ct.	£2
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	80,000	$125	all	£1-5s.	£44
National Bank of India	40,000	£25	£12½	6 pr. ct.	30
PRESS COMPANIES.				Yearly	
Akbar	200	1,350	1,350	75	1,150
Albert Ginning Co	100	500	all	18 pr. ct.	45
Albert (Kurrachee)	200	1,100	1,100	Rs 80	1,150
Bellary	187	1,000	1,000	dvd 14 x	225
Bhownugger City Press & Manfg Co, Ld	560	250	250	25	275
Bombay Cotton	16,000	125	125	dv Rs12½	155
Brent's Cawnpore Press Co., Ld	600	200	200	11	187½
Broach City Press Co., Ld	600	200	200	dvd Rs25	230
Colaba	1500	1,880	1,880	dvd Rs15	305
East India	2350	1,000	1,000	75	1,375
English Press and Manfg	400	200	...	dvd Rs 5	95
Fort	150	3,500	500	25+80	1,100
French	300	500	500	dvd Rs30	540
Harvey and Sabapathy	450	450	500	dvd Rs40	350
Hingoli Press Co., Ld	700	100	100	dvd Rs11	135
Khangaum	240	450	450	Rs40	530
Mahuva Press Co., Ld	300	300	all	15 pr. ct.	255
Mahomedpura Cotton G. and P. Co., Ld.	300	500	500	53	95
Mercantile	1,000	125	125	dvd Rs 4	75
Mofussil Co	3,125	400	400	dvd Rs20	330
Munmar M...	1,000	250	[illegible]	[illegible] 15	210
New Berar	1,200	600	500	dvd Rs60	[illegible]
New Indian	4,000	125	125	dvd Rs 9	125
Prince of Wales	100	500	500	25	475
Sabapathy (Bellary)	500	500	75	20	385
Sassoon	1300	500	500	20	68
Sind and Punjab Co	100	1,000	1,000	200	2,250
Sind	400	2,000	750	50	520
[illegible] Woollen Mills	1,200	250	250	Nil	75
Surat City Press Co., Ld.	370	200	all	12	230
Volkart	—	1,000	10	vd Rs65	108
RAILWAY COMPANIES.				guar.	
G. I. P. R. Consolidated Stock	—	£100	all	5 p. c.	
B. B. & C. I. R.	—	£ 18	—	c.	
Ahmedabad Prantej	4,000	500	400		
The Tapti Valley	26,000	500	5	...	
SPINNING AND WEAVING COMPANIES.				Half yea	
Alliance	1,500	2,100	all		
Anglo-Indian	1,345		100	Nil	455
Aurangabad S. & M. Co. Ld.	68	1,000	1,000	60	1,000
Bellary S & W Co. Ld (Bellary)	871	60	all	9 per ct.	290
Bombay United	900	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.40	685
Bombay Cotton Manfg. Co	900	500	500	dvd Rs.30	500
Bombay National Manfg. Co. Ld	800	1,000	1,000	...	690
Britannia Mills	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.40	600
Central India	1,000	500	500	dvd Rs.50	1,400
China Mills Co Ld	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.50	770
City of Bombay Mills	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.50	1,000
Coimbatore S and W	6,000	100	100	9 per ct.	125
Connaught Mills	600	500	500	25	700
Colaba Land & Mills	4,000	700	...	dvd Rs12	600
Coorla Mills	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.50	556
Currimbhoy Mill	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.60	1,000
David Mill	1,400	500	500	dvd Rs.30	500
Dhun Mills	1,000	1,000	1,000	50	500
Empress	2,100	500	500	dvd 25	600
Framjee Petit	1,250	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.30	580
Hindustan	875	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs35	680
Hingunghat Mills	700	500	500	40	670
Howard and Bulloughs	1,500	500	500	25	700
Hope Mills	500	,000	1,000	50	575
Hyderabad	700	1,000	1,000	40	1,400
Imperial Cotton	900	500	500	dvd Rs.15	485
Indian Manfg	900	1,000	1,000	50	1,210
Indo-China Manufacturing Co., Ld	700	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.50	775xd
James Greaves	1,100	500	500	20	700
Jaffer Alli	600	500	500	dvd Rs.20	225
Jamshed Manufacturing Co.	1,800	250	250	dvd Rs.10	227½
Jewraj Balloo	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.20	975
Jubilee Mills Co., Ld	843	1,000	1,000	20	525
Khandeish	750	1,500	1,000	dvd Rs30	705
Khangaum Manfg. Co	400	250	250	Nil	850
Khatao Makunjee	1,000	1,030	1,000	dvd Rs35	765
Leopold	3,500	100	103	dvd Rs.10	250
Lord Reay Mfg	445	1,000	1,000	30	800
Lukmidas Spinning & Weaving Co	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.50	985
Madras United	358	1,000	1,000	dv Rs.100	3,050
Mahaluxmee	600	1,000	1,000	Nil	500
Mahboob Shahi Mills (Gulburga)	3,400	500	500	15 pr ct	...
Manockjee Petit	4,000	1,000	1,000	dv Rs100	2,100
Mazagon	5,000	250	250	dvd Rs 5	127½
Morarji Goculdas	1,050	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs75	2,150
Mysore S & M Co Ld	4,000	250	250	dvd 15	250
Madura Mills	7,779	100	100	Nil	pa
National	500	1,000	1,000	Nil	525
New Great Eastern	1,400	1,000	1,060	Rs 20	460
Oriental	5,725	625	625	dvd Rs20	350
Presidency Mills Co (Ld).	743	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs50	1,250
Queen Mills	300	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs60	800
Ripon Mills	600	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs60	1,210
Sassoon	1,500	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs50	1,050
Sholapore Mills	500	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs60	1,525
Soonderdas	750	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs40	850
Southern India	1,000	500	500	15	125
Southern Mahratta	1,212	250	250	dv Rs 12½	355
Sun Mills, Ld	1,300	250	250	dvd Rs 20	475
Standard Mills Co.	1,600	500	500	25	350
Star of India	1,000	1,000	1,000	Nil	650
Swadeshi Mills	475	500	500	dvd Rs15	575
Sassoon and Alliance	,000	90	500	dvd Rs15	600
Union Spinning and Manufacturing Co	900	1,000	1,000	50	52
Union Mills Ld	90	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs30	500
Venishunker Lukhmishunker C Mill Co Ld	900	500	900	dvd Rs40	0xd
Victoria Mills	550	1,000	1,000	Nil	450
Western India	1,200	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs50	90
Wadia Mills	1,600	1,000	1,000	...	
MISCELLANEOUS.				Half yearly	
Alcock Ashdown	1,780	100	100	dvd Rs 5 7½	325
Asiatic Fire Insurance Co Ld	—	1,000	100	...	115
Back Bay Baths	580	30	50	1	50
Badhare Pile	6,000	100	100	12	158
Bombay & Burma Trading Corporation	1,000	2,500	1,500	300	6,450
Do. New Issue	500	375	625	75	1,650
Bombay Ice Mfg. Co., Ld.	1,350	100	100	dvd 3	62
Bombay Land and Building Co., Ld.	480	500	500	6 pr. ct	50
Bombay Flour Mill	720	600	500	5	1,200
Deccan Paper Mills	1,080		500	5 pr. ct.	25
Delhi and Northern India Flour Mills	1,600	200	200	dvd Rs16	19
Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co., Ld.	2,800	250	250	8 pr. ct.	375
Indian Guarantee Surety Ship Assn	3,000	100	10	10 pr. ct.	17
John Roberts & Co	1,800	100	100	10 pr. ct.	207
Kemp & Co	4,000	200	175	21	350 20
Kurrachee Landing	600	500	300	30	180
Marcks & Co., Ld	4,000	100	100	dvd Rs15	40
Napier Hotel Co	2,900	100	100	9 pr. ct.	60
Napier Foundry	1,000	100	300	...	
Oriental Govt. Security Life Insurance	6,000	200	60	12 pr. ct.	160
Phillips & Co., Ld	4,000	100	100	dvd Rs6	94
Port Canning Co	8,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs20	477½ 50
Sandy & Co.	1,000	100	100	9	1,060
Treacher & Co	2,000	500	25	60	14
Thacker & Co.	1,500	100	100	135	295
Tel[illegible] Co. l	8,200	251	100	dvd Rs11	

PRICES OF BULLION, &c.

English Gold	Rs.	25-9	
Gold Leaf	„	25-10	Nom
Pekin, bar Gold, old	„	24-13	
Do. do. new	„	24-11	
Australia bar Gold	„	24-14	
Bombay bar Gold	„	24-12	
Sovereigns	„	[illegible]	
Do. Dragons	„	[illegible]	
Silver 17	„	[illegible]	
Do. 17½	„	[illegible]	

BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, 6h. 23m. Sun sets, 6h. 4m. High water, 4-42m., 5-58a. Low water, 11-13m.
Municipal Corporation, 3 p.m.
Chamber of Commerce Deputation to H. E. the Governor, 2-30 p.m.
Bombay Races, third day.
Byculla Club Ball.
B. V. R. parade.
Bombay Foxhounds meet, Santa Cruz.

PRINCE'S DOCK.—The steamers Imperator and Imperialist left the dock yesterday.

VICTORIA DOCK.—The steamer Culna left the dock yesterday.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL.—Service of humiliation, at 6 o'clock, this evening.

POSTAL NOTICE.—Mails for Colombo, Penang, Singapore, China, and Japan, per extra s. s. Vindobona, will be closed at the General Post Office, at 2 p.m., to-day.

WILSON COLLEGE LECTURES.—The students of the Wilson College are reminded that the College lectures in all classes and in all subjects will be resumed on Monday, 1st March, at the usual hours.

BURGLARY AT GIRGAUM.—Gunga, an old Hindu woman, residing in a room in the Ram Hindu Temple at Girgaum, Cathedral Street, has reported to the police that during her absence from home on the afternoon of the 22nd instant her room was broken into, and Rs. 402 in cash stolen from a box, which was also broken open.

FATAL FALL OFF A WINDOW.—A coroner's inquiry was held, yesterday, at Kumbharwada, touching the death of a Hindu female child, named Putlibai, aged twelve months. On the evening of the 17th instant, the child was playing in its parents' room on the second floor of a house at Kumbharwada, when it accidentally fell out of a window on to the road below, sustaining injuries, which resulted in its death yesterday. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

DEATH OF A ROYAL NAVY OFFICER.—Lieut. Charles T. Boulnois, R.N., of H. M. S. Lapwing, died, on Tuesday, at St. George's Hospital. Shortly before his vessel left for Trincomalee the deceased officer was taken ill and was admitted into the European General Hospital some three weeks ago. He was found to be suffering from fever, and succumbed thereto on the day mentioned. He was only 28 years of age, and was made a Lieutenant only two years ago. He was very popular among the Royal Navy officers, a large number of whom joined his other friends in attending the funeral, which took place yesterday morning.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO AN OLD PARSEE.—Mr. Allan F. Turner, the coroner, held an inquiry, yesterday, at the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital, touching the death of an old Parsee, named Cooverjee Maneckji, aged seventy-five years. On the afternoon of the 26th January last deceased was walking along the Nagdavie Street, when he was accidentally knocked down by a horse attached to a tramcar that was coming from the Crawford Markets and proceeding towards Pydhownie, and sustained a fracture of the left thigh. The driver as well as the conductor shouted out to the man, but being deaf, he could not hear them, and hence the accident. The injured man was conveyed to the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital, where he died on Tuesday last. A verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury.

ALLEGED THEFT BY A SERVANT AND HIS BROTHER.—Motichund Hurruckund, residing at Champaguly, reported to the police, on Tuesday last, that some time during Sunday evening currency notes, of the value of Rs. 275, were stolen from the drawer of a box in his room. The police instituted an inquiry, and found the complainant's servant had disappeared. During the course of the inquiry a brother of the suspected servant was found to be leaving Bombay by a steamer for Vingorla in company of his wife. The police boarded the steamer, and arrested the brother, whose name is Davidin Durgaprasad, but failed to find his wife on board, as the man refused to point her out. It was, however, subsequently ascertained by the police that the woman was on board, and had with her a large sum of money. The number of her ticket having been ascertained, the police authorities of Vingorla were immediately wired to to arrest her on her arrival there. The absconding servant, who committed the theft, is believed to have gone to Poona, and the authorities thereof have also been informed of the same.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.—At the Mazagon Police Court, yesterday, Constable Choake prosecuted one Yesoo Tanoo, an old offender, before Mr. F. S. Taleyarkhan, Acting Fourth Presidency Magistrate, on a charge of breaking into the house of Mr. Balcrishna Purshotam, a Municipal surveyor, residing at Khatarwady; with intent to commit theft. On Sunday evening, complainant went out to see a friend of his, locking the door of his house. He returned home about half-past 9 o'clock, and was standing on the verandah of his neighbour's house, when he heard someone breaking tiles in the roof of his house. He walked down the verandah with a light, and coming into the compound looked over the roof and saw the figure of a man. Complainant asked him who he was, but receiving no reply, raised an alarm of thief. The accused jumped into the compound, and attempted to escape, but was at once arrested and given in police custody. Accused pleaded guilty, and also admitted one previous conviction. His Worship sentenced him to be rigorously imprisoned for a period of six months.

NIGHT RANGERS.—Before Mr. F. S. Taleyarkhan, Acting Fourth Presidency Magistrate, at the Mazagon Police Court, yesterday, Inspector Meyers charged Shaik Mahomed Shaik Hoosein, a native of Jeypore, having no fixed residence in Bombay, with breaking into the house of one Hidayatulla Astulla, at Bhendy Bazaar Road, with intent to commit theft. On Sunday night the accused and another man entered the complainant's house by opening the lock on the door with a duplicate key, but before they could lay their hands on anything, the complainant, who is a boiler-maker, returned home with his brother. Finding the lock on the door open, they became suspicious and entered their respective rooms As soon as the complainant's brother, Haji Ahmed entered his room, a man suddenly rushed out, and having pushed him off, ran down the staircase. Ahmed raised an alarm, when his brother, the complainant, came out, and they both chased the thief, but the latter succeeded in making his escape good. They then returned home, and suspecting that there might be someone still concealed, searched their rooms, with the result that they discovered accused concealed himself in the water closet. He was arrested and given in police custody. Accused, against whom stood two previous convictions, was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

THE EUROPEAN CIVIL SERVICE.

SIR ROPER LETHBRIDGE attended a meeting of the Central Committee of the European Civil Service Association at Calcutta, on the 17th instant, to discuss the grievances remaining unsettled. The Chairman pointed out that the main points which now required settlement were: Reduced period of service for pension; Inadequacy of pension; and Legislative enactment crystallizing the Leave and Pension rules.

In addressing the meeting on the first two points, Sir Roper pointed out that the London Committee had asked him to be their delegate in the matter and that he was very glad to meet the Central Committee and to get a definite expression of their views which might be taken as the mandate of all the services. He sympathised fully with the three main points now brought forward. In regard to the period of service for pension, he was of opinion that 30 years' service in India with only two years foulough to count, was too long for a European, the medical evidence on this point tendered before the Select Committee in 1890 was refused as it was doubtless considered to be unnecessary, the different treatment accorded to Covenanted Civilians and the majority of Public Works and Telegraph men in this respect was anomalous. As regards the "inadequacy of pensions" he pointed out that the recent so-called concession of an extra pension of Rs. 1,000 to certain officers holding high appointments was hardly any concession at all, as many of the appointments carrying this extra pension were held by Covenanted Civilians or Military officers; the anomaly also existed of officers actually drawing higher pay than those who were entitled to these extra pensions, who were not so entitled themselves because they were not in the position of the head of a department. He thought that the proper system to go upon with reference to these extra pensions was to fix them with reference to "pay" and not to "appointment," that is to say that all drawing a certain "pay" should be entitled to them on the assumption that all officers drawing the same pay had the same responsibilities. He also considered that the limit of pension should be raised to £500, and that this would not in any way affect the concession which had been accepted by the services that pension should be paid at 1s. 9d.

In conclusion he was of opinion that the Secretary of State should be approached on these lines, and that if this elicited no response, questions should be asked in Parliament and the matter brought up before the House. He thanked the Committee for meeting him, and assured them they should have his best assistance in their cause, which he thought both just and reasonable.

A cordial vote of thanks was then passed to Sir Roper for his attendance at the meeting and for his great services to the cause in the past.

THE FAMINE.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

THE weekly report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops is published as under :—

MADRAS.

For week ending 13th February.—There was no rain except a few trivial showers in parts; but since the close of the week rain has been general over portion of the presidency south of Madras but amounts are not yet fully known. The water-supply continues to decrease and is very deficient in parts of the Circars and Deccan and it is growing scanty for drinking even in parts; elsewhere the supply is generally fair. Some cultivation is still proceeding under large irrigation works, channels and wells. The standing crop in the Carnatic, Central, Southern and West coast districts is generally in fair condition and the recent rain should benefit the cotton crop where it is grown in them. The standing crop in the Deccan is drying up. Harvests are proceeding with fair to moderate yield over the southern half of the presidency, elsewhere they are generally poor or bad. Pasturage is decreasing but may revive somewhat where rain has fallen. Fodder is generally available though dear in many places and very scarce in parts of the Deccan. In the latter cattle are suffering; elsewhere they are generally in good condition. Prices have risen in the Circars and in parts of the Deccan, Central and West coast districts; elsewhere they are almost stationary or fluctuating irregularly. The numbers on relief works are:—Relief workers 42,169; weavers 7,946; and gratuitously relieved 3,151 in the Deccan; and 1,339 on test work in Ganjam as well as 498 gratuitously relieved in that district. Total relief workers 51,454, gratuitously relieved 3,649. Total number in receipt of relief 55,103. Marked increase in all districts except Cuddapah. Prices by which wages are regulated are:—Kurnool 13 1-2; Bellary and Anantapur 14; Cuddapah 17; and Ganjam 12 1-2 seers per rupee.

BOMBAY.

For week ending 17th February.—Rain fell in the Upper Sind Frontier. The standing crops have been slightly damaged by drought in three talukas of Karachi, by locusts in two of Karachi, by frost in two of Karachi and three of Hyderabad; otherwise they are thriving in Sind and Gujarat, but indifferent elsewhere. Crops recently sown have withered or are withering in Nasik, Ratnagiri, Poona, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Belgaum, and Dharwar. Autumn harvesting has been completed except in Khandesh. Reaping of the late crops has commenced in Panch Mahals, Broach, Surat, Thana, Khandesh, Nasik, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Satara, Bijapur, and Dharwar. Fodder is sufficient except in the Deccan, Karnatak, Shikarpur, and parts of Karachi and Baroda. The grain-supply is generally sufficient in the affected districts. Cotton-picking continues in Broach, Surat, and Rajkot. The condition of the agricultural stock is deteriorating in Poona, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, and Bijapur; but is healthy elsewhere, except in parts of Sind, Khandesh, Nasik, Ratnagiri, and Kanara. Prices are rising in parts of Colaba, Ratnagiri, Poona, and Sholapur; falling in parts of Colaba, Poona, Sholapur, and Bijapur; stationary in Surat and in parts of Poona and Bijapur. The prices of staple food-grains in the affected districts are:—Dharwar 13¾; Belgaum 11½; Sholapur 11; Bijapur 10¾; Ahmednagar 10¼; Poona 10; Nasik and Satara 9¾; Khandesh 9 1-2; Colaba 8¾ seers per rupee. The average daily numbers on relief works, including non-working children, are:—Bijapur 83,679; Sholapur 94,662; Ahmednagar 72,732; Poona 9,035; Nasik 20,970; Satara 25,613; Khandesh 32,378; Belgaum 2,967. Total 342,036, of which 237,057 are relief workers and 104,979 non-working children. Of relief workers 75,152 are men; 104,315 women; and 57,590 children. The numbers on gratuitous relief are:—Bijapur 6,216 including 41 persons in one poor-house; Sholapur 6,138; Ahmednagar 796; Poona 2,776; Nasik 112; Satara 13; Belgaum 351. Total 16,402, of which 8,185 are men; 4,829 women; and 3,388 children. Total number in receipt of relief 358,438.

BENGAL.

For week ending 15th February.—Good and general rain fell in Bihar and Chota Nagpur, and showers in North and South-West Bengal. The rain has benefited the standing crops, but has slightly injured the pulses, which are ripe or being harvested. It has also facilitated the ploughing for *aus* (autumn rice) and jute, which is in progress in several districts of Bengal Proper. In Palamau there was a severe storm with hail on the 11th and some damage to the spring crops is reported. The pressing of sugarcane is going on. In the distressed districts the prices of the food-grains on which the relief wages are based are:—Nadia (common rice) 9 seers, Khulna (common rice) 10 seers, Rajshahi (common rice) 9½ seers, Patna (common rice) 10½ seers, Shahabad 10½ seers, Saran (Indian-corn) 9 seers 14 chittacks, Champaran (Indian-corn) 10¾ seers, Muzaffarpur (Indian-corn) 10 seers, Darbhanga (common rice) 9 seers and (Indian-corn) 10 seers, Bhagulpur (common rice) 10 seers per rupee. These figures show a slight rise in Saran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, and a slight fall in Champaran. The numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief on Saturday, the 13th February, were:—Relief works: Nadia 4,713 (men 2,433, women 818 children 1,462), Khulna 156 (men 129, women nil, children 27), Rajshahi 897 (men 874, women 6, children 17), Shahabad 1,177 (men 368, women 494, children 315), Saran 14,099 (men 3,901, women 5,915, children 4,283), Champaran 117,539 (men 48,916, women 43,374, children 25,249), Muzaffarpur 23,042 (men 13,157, woman 5,176, children 4,709), Darbhanga 133,981 (men 57,977, women 55,276, children 20,728), Bhagulpur 2,232 (men 1,009, women 781, children 442), Palamau 1,727, Manbhum 1,200. Total 300,763 against 265,347 in the previous week. Gratuitous relief: Nadia 1,872 (men 438, women 1,196, children 238), Khulna 216 (men 38 women 111, children 67), Patna 80 (men 23, women 36, children 21), Shahabad 2,050 (men 449, women 868, children 733), Saran 14,198 (men 2,668, women 8,863, children 2,667), Champaran 30,173 (men 5,613, women 12,431, children 12,129), Muzaffarpur 2,549 (men 705, women 918, children 926), Darbhanga 82,108 (men 15,733, women 41,704, children 24,671), Bhagulpur 11 (men *nil*, woman 1, children 10), Palamau 381, Manbhaum 632. Total 134270 against 101,220 in the previous week. Grand total 435,033. Private relief—Relief works: Darbanga Raj 21,715 (men 14,929, women 4,990, children 1,796), Hatwa Raj 3,599. Gratuitous relief: Darbhanga Raj 11,274 (men 2,122, women 5,272, children 3,880), Hatwa Raj 771. Rest of Saran district 1,042.

NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH.

For week ending 17th February.—Heavy rain fell in the hill districts, while in most of the other districts in the provinces there were light showers. The spring crops continue to promise well. Cane-pressing continues and the harvesting of arhur (Cajanus indicus) and the early spring crops are beginning. The crops in portions of a few districts have been slightly damaged by hail and frost. The numbers in receipt of relief on Saturday, 13th February, in nineteen districts officially recognised as distresssd, were as follows:—Agra 30,308, Etawah 20,250, Cawnpore 104,127, Banda 183,753, Hamirpur 69,824, Allahabad 978,576 Jhansi 38,241, Jalaun 13,496, Mirzapur 34,385, Jaunpur 66,677, Gorakhpur 38,457, Azamgarh 15,846, Lucknow 81,767, Unao 56,939, Rae Bareli 86,473, Sitapur 60,988, Hardoi 157,959, Barabanki 36,564, Fatehpur 9,887. Total 1,367,517 The total is distributed as follows among the various methods of relief prescribed by the Famine Code which are in operation:—Employed on relief works 907,055 relieved as dependents 215,878, relieved in poor-houses 43,305, relieved under other provisions of the Code 201,279. The numbers relieved in eighteen districts which are under observation, but not yet officially recognised as distressed, were on the same date as follows:—Relieved on test works 127,325, relieved in poor-houses 14,019, relieved under other provisions of the Code 21,070. Total 162,414; the grand total in receipt of relief on the last day of the week was therefore 1,529,931. Supplies are generally sufficient. Fodder is scarce and dear in places. Prices continue to show a yielding tendency in most districts. The price of the staple grain on which the famine wage is based varied from nine and half to eleven seers in the districts officially recognised as distressed.

PUNJAB.

For week ending 16th February.—Rain averaging about ⅛th of an inch has fallen in Hissar, ⅛th in Karnal, ⅓rd in Mooltan and Lahore, ½ in Sialkot and Rawalpindi, 1½ in Amritsar, and nearly an inch in Umballa, 1-3rd of an inch in Ferozepore, and ½ Gujrat and Gujranwala. There was a slight drizzling in Rohtak, Shahpur and Dera Ismail Khan Sugarcane-pressing is still going on in Amritsar. Ploughings and sowings of extra spring crops are going on. The condition and prospects of irrigated crops are generally reported good to fair; they are not good in parts of Rohtak where well water is brackish and also in the parts which have not received a sufficient supply of canal water. The crops on dry land have failed in Hissar and are withering in Roktak and Delhi. More rain is wanted in Shahpur as well as in the Delhi division. The unirrigated crops are said to be good in Lahore; their condition has been improved by the recent rain in certain districts. The stock of grain has been nearly exhausted in Hissar where the supply is imported from Sindh. Stocks are also insufficient in Shahpur and with the cultivators of Amritsar. Barley, gram and rape crops are reported to have been damaged by caterpillars in parts of Ferozepore. Hail fell in parts of Dera Ismail Khan, but did no damage, and locusts also appeared, but passed over without doing any damage. Cattle are generally in poor condition for want of fodder. Forty head of cattle died of starvation in Rohtak. Their condition is reported good to fair in Gurgaon, Umballa, Ferozepore, Lahore, and Amritsar; and average in Sialkot. Fodder is scarce in all districts except Umballa. The recent rain will probably improve the pasturage. The average daily number of persons on famine relief works was as follows:—Rohtak 6,725; Gurgaon 614; Delhi 3,242; Karnal 2,746; Ferozepore 844; Gujrat 48,512 and Hissar 40,570, including 3,027, 43,948, 18,145, 17,459 and 8,043 persons respectively gratuitously relieved. There were also 2329 gratuitously relieved in Umballa and 2,061 in Lahore. Gratuitous relief otherwise than on relief works was afforded to 1,199 in Gujrat, and 754 persons were on ordinary works in Gurgaon. The number of persons on test works was 126 in Ludhjana; 258 in Mooltan; 73 in Lahore; and 292 in Gujranwala, where the works are being closed. Test works, have also been closed in Rawalpindi. Total number on relief and test works, including gratuitously relieved, was 109,594. Prices are generally still high; they have again risen in most districts. A fall in prices, though slight, is reported from Delhi, Karnal and Dera Ismail Khan. The figures are unchanged in Mooltan. Wheat is selling from 8 1-4 to 10 seers; gram 9 to 10½; great millet 10 to 10½; bulrush millet 9½ to 12 3-16 and maize 10¼ to 11 1-2 seers per rupee. Prices of staple food-grains on which the famine wages are reckoned are:—Rohtak gram 11; Delhi bulrush millet 9; Karnal gram 9½ and maize 11; Umballa maize 10; Ferozepore great millet 12; Lahore wheat 10 and maize 11; Gujrat wheat flour 8; Ludhiana maize 11; Mooltan wheat 9½; and Gujranwala wheat, 9 seers per rupee.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

For week ending 16th February.—The weather was cloudy and unsettled with light showers. Mandla received an inch and a half; Seoni, Raipur, and Sambalpur about one inch and most other districts smaller quantities. Prospects of the food crops continue from fair to good, but the recent hail and rain have caused slight damage to standing crops in Jubbulpore and Seoni. Insects are complained of in Mandla and Bhandara. The linseed crop is generally a poor one. Clear weather is required for harvesting which is being impeded in some places, especially in Mandla. Fodder is growing scarce in Seoni and in parts of Nagpur and Sambalpur. People are leaving relief works for harvesting in Saugor, Damoh, Jubbulpore, Seoni, and Hoshangabad; while greater numbers are seeking relief in Mandla, Narsinghpur, Betul, Chhindwara, and in the affected districts of the Nagpur and Chattisgarh divisions, except Nagpur itself. Numbers on relief works are:—Saugor 25,069; Damoh 21,038; Jubbulpore 65,723; Mandla 17,563; Seoni 5,359; Narsinghpur 16,518; Hoshangabad 25,753; Nimar 487; Betul 13,220; Chhindwara 7,053; Nagpur 1,038; Chanda 2,615; Bhandara 10,709; Balaghat 6,950; Raipur 10,822, Belaspur 8,382. Total 238,299. The numbers on gratuitous relief were:—Saugor 13,388; Damoh 3,705; Jubbulpore 16,929; Mandla 2,422; Seoni 1,761; Narsinghpur 7,157; Hoshangabad 7,541; Nimar 399; Betul 1,072; Chhindwara 2,328; Nagpur 980; Chanda 355; Bhandara 3,100; Balaghat 3,165; Raipur 2,338; Bilaspur 2,049. Total 68,749. The grand total in receipt of relief was therefore 307,048. There were also 50,223 on railway and private works in Saugor, Damoh, Jubbulpore, Seoni, Balaghat and Bilaspur. Prices of staple food-grains on which the famine wages are based are:—Saugor, Jubbulpore, and Bhandara 9½, Damoh, Narsinghpur, Betul, Chanda, Raipur, and Bilaspur 10, Mandla 8½, Seoni 9¾, Hoshangabad 10½, Nimar 10¼, Chhindwara and Nagpur 11½, Balaghat 8 seers per rupee.

BURMA.

For week ending 13th February.—In Lower Burma threshing and winnowing continues. The dry weather paddy crop in Tavoy is in good condition. In upper Burma the cultivation of dry weather paddy is progressing. The reaping of jowar (Sorghum vulgare) is completed in Meiktila and the gathering of peas on islands is progressing in Myingyan. In Sagaing wheat, gram and beans are in poor condition from want of rain. Prospects of miscellaneous crops elsewhere are fair. Slight rain has fallen in Thayetmyo and Ruby Mines districts and heavy rain in Yamethin; but too late to benefit crops. The price of paddy has risen considerably in Amherst; slightly in Henzada and Thayetmyo; and has fallen slightly in Rangoon, Pegu, Thongwa, Bassein, Myaungmya, and Minbu. Numbers on relief works are:—Meiktila 14,714, Myingyan 9,201; and on gratuitous relief, Meiktila 2,578; Myingyan 2,598; Yamethin 287. Total numbers on relief 29,378. In Meiktila the price of rice is 8 seers 12 chittacks, in Myingyan 9 seers 5 chittacks per rupee.

ASSAM.

For week ending 16th February.—Slight rain has fallen in all districts except Sylhet, Kamrup, Nowgong and the Khasi Hills; but rain is wanted in Sylhet and Kamrup. Ploughing for early rice has commenced. Pressing of sugar-cane and pruning of tea continues. Prices: common rice Silchar 9½, Sylhet 10½, Gauhati 10, Tezpur 10½ and Sibsagar 11 seers per rupee. Fodder is insufficient in Cachar, the Naga and Khasi Hills, and in parts of the Kamrup district. Water is scanty in Nowgong, the Naga Hills and in parts of Sibsagar and the Khasi Hills.

MYSORE AND COORG.

For week ending 16th February.—Mysore: Prospects are fair. Prices have fallen slightly in Tumkur, Mysore and Shimoga. Ragi (Eleusine coracana) has been harvested in the Bangalore and Tumkur districts.

Coorg: Rainfall 5 cents. The threshing of rice continues. Prices are normal. Health is fair. Water and fodder for cattle are sufficient.

BERAR AND HYDERABAD.

For week ending 16th February.—Berar: The weather is warm. The winter crops are in poor condition owing to insufficient moisture. The preparation of the land for the ensuing rain crops continues. Fodder and water are inadequate to wants. There has been a rise in the priee of food-grains. Number of persons on relief works:—Akola 3,528; Basim 400; Melghat 1,955. Total 5,883. Prices:—Akola 11, Basim 10, and Melghat 10 seers per rupee.

CENTRAL INDIA.

For week ending 16th February.—No rain fell in Central India during the week. Agricultural operations have been completed in Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand and are in progress in other Agencies. The crops have been damaged for want of rain in Gwalior and slightly in Bhopawar. The agricultural stock is fair in Bhopal; good in Baghelkhand, Malwa, and two districts of Gwalior; indifferent in Bundelkhand and some parts of Gwalior. Pasturage is fair in Bhopal and Malwa; good in Baghelkhand and one district of Gwalior; sufficient in Bhopawar; and indifferent in Bundelkhand and some districts of Gwalior. Prices are above normal in Malwa and Bhopawar. They have fallen slightly but are still high in Baghelkhand; steady elsewhere. The opium crops are fair in Bhopal, Bhopawar and in one district of Gwalior; good in Malwa; and in two districts of Gwalior. The numbers of persons employed on famine relief works were:—Gwalior 14,277, Bundelkhand 8,161, Baghelkhand 68,492. The numbers on gratuitous relief were:—Bundelkhand 1547 Baghelkhand 3,350. Not reported from Gwalior. Total number in receipt of relief, excluding number gratuitously relieved in Gwalior, 95,827. The prices of staple food-grains are:—10 to 10 1-2 in Gwalior, 10 3-4 seers per rupee in Bagelkhand; not reported from Bundelkhand.

RAJPUTANA.

For week ending 17th Febuary.—No rain fall throughout Rajputana. Agricultural operations are satisfactory in Jhallawar, Kotoh, Jeypore and in Ajmere-Merwara; fairly satisfactory in Kherwara, and poor in Dholepore. The standing crops are in good condition generally, except in Dholepore. Harvests are good in Jeypore; average in Ajmere-Merwara; and below average in Harowtee. Cattle are in good condition generally, except in Dholepore, Bhurtpore, Meywar, Bikanir and Jaisulmere. Fodder is sufficient, but failing in Dholepore and Bhurtpore; and scarce in some tehsils of Jeypore. Prices are rising in Pertabgurh, Meywar and Bhurtpore; falling in Shahpura and Bikanir; high in Harowtee; steady elsewhere. The number of persons on relief works was:—Marwar 5,427, Kotah 1,112, Dholepore 7,052, Bhurtpore 241, Bikanir 4,742, Jaisulmere 918; and on gratuitous relief: Merwara 1,010, Bhurtpore 704, Bikanir 621 and Jaisulmere 13. Total numbers on relief 21,840. The price of the staple food-grain, on which the famine wages are based, are:—Marwar 8 seers 8 Chittacks, Kotah 14, Dholepore 14 seers 10 chittacks, Bhurtpore 9 seers 9 chittacks, Bikanir 9 seers 9 chittacks, Jaisulmere 8 seers 9 chittacks, per rupee.

KASHMIR.

For week ending 16th February.—Snow has fallen. Spring crops are under snow. Prices continue below normal. Price 24 seers per rupee.

JAMMU PROVINCE.

For week ending 17th February.—No rain. Prices stationary. Fodder scanty. Relief works closed. Prices 10¾ seers per rupee.

NEPAL.

For week ending 13th February.—No rain has fallen but the weather has been dull, threatening, and cold. Prospects continue good. Price 7-1-8 seers per rupee.

The total numbers in receipt of relief during the preceding and present weeks are as follows:—

NAME OF PROVINCE	PRECEDING WEEK.			PRESENT WEEK.			Increase or decrease.
	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	
Madras	37389	10774	48163	43508	11595	55103	+ 6940
Bombay	348572	13126	361698	342036	16402	358438	— 3260
Bengal	265347	101220	366567	300763	134270	435033	+ 68466
N-W-Provinces & Oudh	1126289	278247	1404536	1250258	279673	1529931	+125395
Punjab	79664	26575	106239	78712	30882	109594	+ 3355
C Provinces	251796	64817	316613	238299	68749	307048	— 9565
Burma	27225	5857	33082	23915	5463	29378	— 3704
Berar	2152	..	2152	5883	..	5883	+ 3731
C India	69321	4344	73665	90930	4897	95827	+ 22162
Rajputana	24327	2819	27146	19492	2348	21840	— 5306
Grd. Total	2232082	507779	2739861	2393796	554279	2948075	+208214

STATEMENT BY SIR ARTHUR HAVELOCK.

In his reply to the Adoni Municipal address, His Excellency the Governor thus stated the Government's policy with regard to famine relief:—"The Government considers that its duty to the state is twofold; on the one hand it has to safeguard its financil resources, on the other to save the lives of the people. While not losing sight of the former obligation, I have no hesitation in saying, and I believe I am expressing not only my own mind but also that of my colleagues, that we consider the latter duty far more important. Our objects and our duties are, as I have said, to save life, as far as may be particable, by all means in our power. By this is meant that while Government is not bound to maintain the labouring community at their normal level of comfort, such a degree of health and strength will be kept up as will be sufficient to enable each individul, when distress is past and he leaves relief works, to resume his ordinary calling. This is the mainspring of our policy, and to it all regulations as to task and wage must be made subservient. It is the basis of the Famine Code itself, which has received the sanction of the Government of India. It is our duty, I repeat, to save life, and by life we, and I am sure the Government of India too mean health, vitality, and working power, and not emaciation and starvation. I have said all rules and regulations must be made subservient to saving life, and it is to ascertain that this is done that I am here among you to-day."

His Excellency further stated the object of his present tour as follows.—"Questions have arisen, as they would naturally be expected to arise, when the moment comes to put paper rules into practice, as to the leniency or severity of the task to be set for labourers, and the sufficiency or otherwise of the wages paid them. This question can only be decided on the spot, as also other questions of less importance. In these matters I thought, and my colleagues were of the same opinion, that I should come and discuss the situation with the District Officers."

THE WEATHER.

OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 8 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH OF FEBRUARY 1897.

SUMMARY.

There has been a brisk to rapid fall of pressure at Sirsa and Lahore, a brisk to very rapid rise at Karachi, Jacobabad, Bhuj, Ghadechi, Surat and Bombay, and a slight rise or fall elsewhere. The distribution is very irregular, and the baric gradients are steep to slight. Winds in Sind, Cutch, Gajarat Rajputana, Central India, the Punjab and North-West Provinces are cyclonic, while they are very variable in direction in the remaining districts. The force has been strong to a gale at Karachi, Jacobabad, Deesa, Veraval and Neemuch, and moderate to light elsewhere. This morning the wind velocity was 28 miles an hour at Veraval, 24 at Neemuch, 16 at Khandwa and Rajkot, and 12 at Ajmere and Deesa. The maximum temperature is in very large excess of the normal at Lahore, Sirsa, Agra, Allhabad and Jeypore, and the minimum as much as from 16° to 22° in excess at Lahore and Sirsa. The highest temperature in the shade was 102° at Cuddapah, and the lowest 55° at Allahbad. Humidity changes are unimportant, and the skies are cloudy to overcast at Surat, Bombay, Rajkot, Lahore, Sirsa, Delhi and Coimbatore. A few drops of rain have fallen at Colombo. A deep depression lies near Lahore, where the abnormal deficiency amounts to a little more than a quarter of an inch. It affects the weather all over the country lying to the north of Latitude 19°, where strong winds with galses and more or less cloudy weather and local rain are to be expected.

W. C. NIGEL JONES,
Acting Meteorological Reporter for Western India.

(BY, TELEGRAPH.)

SIMLA, FEB. 22.

Wednesday:—The lowest pressure now shown over north Punjab whence the barometer has fallen very rapidly and pressure is nearly four tenths below normal. Pressure is high over North Bombay and over Bengal, Asam and Burma. Cyclonic winds and gales are reported over the Punjab. Both in the hills and the plains. The velocity at Murree this morning being forty miles per hour. The depression has occasioned cloudy unsettled weather over the Punjab and dust storms and showers have occurred in some places. Murree and Cherat have received about half-an inch of rain; Rawalpindi and Peshawar about quarter of an inch, and Roorkee, Khushab, and Mussoorie light showers. These are the only rainfalls over India. The mean temperature has been steady in Burma, the Peninsula Guzerat, Central India, Sind and Rajputana, but has risen elsewhere. The heat is generally excessive especially over the Punjab. A maxima of about one hundred degrees was registered over the inland parts of the Peninsula and at Nagpur yesterday.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

GOVERNMENT OBSERVATORY, COLABA.

Bombay, 23rd February, 1897.

Means of observations taken at 6 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Barometer corrected 32 deg. Fah.	inches	29·897
Temperature of the Air	degrees	75·8
Wet Bulb Thermometer		70·8
Dew Point		68·6
Relative humidity of Air		·789
Extent of cloudy sky (the whole sky clouded—10)		0·0
Maximum temperature of air (read at 8 a.m.) next day)	degrees	82·3
Minimum do. do. (read at 8 a.m)		69·9
General Directions of wind *		NW, N, NNE, WNW, NW.
Movement of Wind in 24 hours*	miles	225

*From midnight to midnight.

N. A. F. MOOS,
Director, Government Observatory.

HIGH COURT.—FEBRUARY 25.

(Before the Hon'ble Mr JUSTICE STRACHEY.)

Postponed Long Causes.

436-96—In person—Gungabai vs Jetha Nursey—S Blands and N.

147-93—Framjee M and M—Chandoolal Khooshaljee vs Awad bin Oomer Sultan Nawaz Jung Bahadur—Crawford B and Co.

632-96—In person (a pauper)—Damodher Rughunath vs. Ragoonath Shivram—K J Mantri.

For Further Directions on Special Commissioner's Report.

178-94—Bhaishunker and K—Jaikisondas vs Tapibai widow—Edgelow and G.

OPIUM REVENUE.

The opium revenue to date compared with the Estimates for the year 1896-97, up to 11th Feb., 1897 are as follows:—

	In Feb. 1897. Bengal.	In Jan. 1897. Bombay.	Total.
Estimate	42,25,000	12,00,000	54,25,000
Actual	35,61,325	11,04,000	47,68,325
Better than Estimate	......	......	......
Worst than Estimate	5,60,675	96,000	6,56,675

Eleven sales of Bengal opium and ten months' pass duty on opium exported from Bombay.

	To end of Feb. 1897. Bengal.	To end of Jan. 1897. Bombay.	Total.
Estimate	4,64,75,000	1,40,00,000	6,04,75,000
Actual	4,50,22,025	1,11,38,975	5,61,61,000
Better than Estimate	......	......	......
Worst than Estimate	14,52,975	28,61,025	1,430004

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Westminster Gazette*: "I hear that an English expedition to the South Pole has practically been decided upon. The promoters have been in communication with the Government on the subject, and have received fairly satisfactory replies. Mr. Goschen stated that whilst the Admiralty could not spare a ship nor the assistance of dockyard officials, all possible help should be given with regard to the manning and equipment of the expedition. It is hoped that with this assistance the expedition may be got ready to sail in June. Its cost is estimated at about £50,000, and leading members of the Royal Geographical Society anticipate little difficulty in raising this sum by public subscription; an anonymous donor has, in fact, already offered £2,000. It is expected that the explorers would be absent three years, the object being a thorough examination of the Antarctic Sea under winter conditions. No previous expedition has wintered there, and accordingly important scientific results might be obtained whether or not the South Pole was actually reached."

THE North-West Soap Company, having factories at Calcutta and Meerut, has succeeded in producing some excellent soap manufactured by the French, or milled process. The "Household Toilet Soap" possesses good detergent properties, and is pleasant in use, softening to the skin without undue strength. In appearance this soap is quite equal to any imported, and being made with advantages as to labour, freight, and proximity to the markets, it ought rapidly to make a name for itself, and add one to the necessary trade commodities successfully manufactured in this country.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white or falling off, use "The Mexican Hair Renewer," for it will positively restore in every case, Grey or White hair, to its Original colour without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Ask your Chemists for "The Mexican Hair Renewer, sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere at 3s. 6 . a bottle.—Wholesale Depot 53, Farringdon Road, London, England.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

THE s s Imperialist, 2,177 tons, Captain C Wakeford, cleared yesterday for Antwerp and Hamburg, with a general cargo.

THE B I S N Co's s s Nuddea, 1,944 tons, Captain S Boon, arrived in harbour yesterday from Calcutta (4th February), with a cargo of rice, &c.

THE B I S N Co,s s s Baghdad, 819 tons, Captain H W Fry, will sail to-day for Persian Gulf, with a general cargo and 65 deck passengers.

THE B I S N Co's s s Khandala, 1,316 tons, Captain H W Jacobs, cleared yesterday for Calcutta via coast ports, with a general cargo and Mr J Rozario and Mr R B Kotwal as passengers.

THE s s Clitus, 1,538 tons, Captain J R George, arrived in harbour yesterday from New Castle (26th January) with a cargo of 1,899 tons coal The vessel is consigned to Messrs Ritchie Steuart and Co.

THE following is the list of passengers proceeding at 4-30 p m, to-day, from the Victoria Dock, No 8, per Austrian Lloyed's steamer Vindobona, Captain C Bellen:—For Colombo—Captain Zurak, Mr G H Brown, and Mr. A. Mosca. For Hongkong—Consul Kutschera and Mrs B Brounschweig. For Shanghai—Consul-General and Mrs N von Schmucker.

VESSELS IN DOCKS.—FEBRUARY 24.

PRINCE'S DOCK.

Shd.	Vessels.	Ton.	Capt.	Destination.	Date.*	Agents.
A	Clio	1779	Johnson	London	24-2	F Muir & Co
B	Dido	3172	Watson	Hull	27-2	F Muir & Co
C	Mohammudi	1252	Erikson	Genoa		B & P S N Co
D	Mozaffari	1176	Macalister			Do.
F	Australia	2030	Tait	Liverpool		W & A G Co
H&J	Apollo	2429	Dixon	Trieste	3 3	W & A Graham
K	Wardha	2562	Robinson		27-2	M M & Co
L	Brahmani	524	Fakeera	Mangalore	26-2	Shepherd & Co
N	Imperialist	2177	Wakeford	Antwerp	24-2	F M & Co
O	Canara	1217	Stabb	Zanzibar	27-2	M M & Co
P	Falkland	1875	Main	Liverpool		F M & Co

HARBOUR WALL.

Mahanadi	517	Budroo	C. Gulf	25-2	Shepherd & Co

VICTORIA DOCK.

Shd.	Vessels.	Ton.	Capt.	Destination.	Date.	Agents.
1	Brttania	1969	Turner	Liverpool		W & A G & Co
2	Remus	1655	Schwane	Rangoon		T Morrison
3	Po	1132	C Raphlis	Genoa	2-3	C Barbora
4	Bisagno	1499	Mancini	China	8-3	C Barboro
5	Culna	1464	Thomas	Rangoon	25-2	M M & Co
6	Brindisi	2829	Wickenden	China	16 2	P & O Co
7	Imperator	2343	Nicolich	Trieste	1-3	A Lloyd's
8	Vindobona	2674	Bellen	China	24-2	A Lloyds & Co
10	Iran	4666	Hughes	Antwerp	25-2	E Bates & Co
12	Rufford Hall	2257	Browne	Liverpool		Do.
13	Pentakota	2209	Cave	Rangoon	24-2	M M & Co
14	Dwarka	760	Tice	Karachi	27-2	Do.
16	Carthage	2926	De Horne	Aden	27-2	P & O Co

MEREWETHER DRY DOCK.

Imperator	4119	Austrian Lloyds

* Probable date of departure.

Time Ball drops at Prince's Dock at Noon or Greenwich meantime, 7h. 8m. 41·3s.

The Time Ball over the Clock Tower at the Bombay Castle continues to be dropped regularly at 1 p.m. of Colaba meantime, or 8h. 8m. 41·30 of Greenwich meantime.

ARRIVALS.

Feb.	Vessel.	Commander.	From.
24	Nuddea s	Boon	Calcutta, Feb 4.
	Clitus s	George	Newcastle, Jan 26.

DEPARTURE.

Feb.	Vessel.	Commander.	Destination.
24	Imperialist s	Wakeford	Antwerp & Hamburg

The following vessels obtained their port-clearances yesterday:—
Steamer Baghdad, Fry, for Persian Gulf.
„ Khandala, Jacobs, for Calcutta, etc.

The following vessels entered for loading yesterday:—
Steamer Persepolis, for Havre and London.
„ Secundra, for Madras and Coast.
„ Virawa, for Rangoon, etc.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS.—FEBRUARY 22.

Townsend, Major, Ms, Ordnance Dept, on duty, from Madras

FEBRUARY 24.

Betham, Capt, Bo, 8th Bo I, from Baroda.
Waterman, Lt, Bengal, 5th Lancers, on leave, from Muttra.
Macdonald, Major, Punjab, Hampshire Regt, on leave, from Lucknow.

DEPARTURES.—FEBRUARY 22.

Reordan, Surgn-Major, Bengal, A M S, on duty, to Meerut.

FEBRUARY 24.

Waterman, Lt, Bengal, 5th Lancers, on leave, to Muttra.

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY COLONEL R. S. BROWN, V.D., COMMANDING B. V. R.

Bombay, 25th February, 1897.

1. There will be no parade on Saturday the 27th instant.
2. The Range will be reserved for E Company on Saturday afternoon the 27th instant. The trains for Coorla leave Victoria Terminus at 2-30, 3, and 3-30 p.m. (Bombay time) and Byculla 12 minutes later.

BOMBAY LIGHT HORSE.

1. The squadron will parade at the Riding School on Friday morning at 7 a.m.—Marching order.

By order,
C. MOSS, Captain,
Adjutant B. V. R.

NOTICE.

BOMBAY RIFLE CLUB.

The first dance of the Club which was fixed to take place on the 12th instant, and unavoidably postponed has now been fixed to take place on Friday the 26th instant at 9 p.m.

Fancy or Evening Dress.

Tickets can be obtained at the door or from the following:—
Captain F. W. English, Byculla School, Byculla.
Lieut. D. J. Sharp, 10 Oak Lane, Fort.
2nd Lieut. H. C. Roe, Apollo Hotel, Fort.
Sergt. Major J. H. Downing, Head-Quarters, B. V. Rifles.
Qr Mr. Sergt. W. Stephens, Stephens and Sons, Girgaum.
Cr. Sergt. H Black, Govt. Telegraph Office, Pydhownie.
Cr. Sergt. W. J. Knight, Cathedral High School, Fort.
Sergt. W. G. Nicoll, H. M.'s Mint, Fort.
Corpl. G. Lund, Lund and Blockley, Fort.
Vol. H. Row, Hope Hall Estate, Mazagon.
W. B. Green's Restaurant, Apollo Bunder.
Fancy Dress—Members Rs. 2, to include one lady; Non-Members Rs. 3, to include one Lady.
Evening Dress.—Members Rs. 3, to include one lady; Non-Members Rs. 4, to include one lady.
Light Refreshments will be provided.

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY MAJOR G. W. ROUGHTON, COMMANDING B. V. A.

Bombay, 25th February 1897.

1. The following Sub-divisional drills will take place this week:—

No. 1 Company.

To-day (Thursday), 8-45 p.m.—Nos. 1 and 4 Sub-divisions.
Friday, 8-45 p.m.—Nos. 2 and 3 Sub-divisions.

2. There will be 10 in. R. M. L. Gun drill at the Byculla Head-quarters for No. 2 Company to-day (Thursday) at 8-45 p.m.
3. There will be Class Firing at Coorla to-morrow (Friday). Train leaves Victoria Terminus at 6 a.m (local time), and Byculla 12 minutes later.
4. The Proficiency Class will meet at the Byculla Head-quarters to-night (Thursday). The Examination for proficiency certificates will be held at the Byculla Head-quarters at 7 a.m. on Saturday the 6th March.
5. The Range Finding Class will meet at the Bhandarwada Reservoir, Mazagon, to-morrow (Friday) at 7 a.m. sharp.
6. The Corps will parade on Saturday next the 27th instant at 4 p.m. on the Oval in front of the Corps Club and proceed by gharries to Colaba North Fort for drill and Fort Manning.
Dress.—Drill order without arms.
Putties to be worn.
7. The following are the dates fixed for the Annual Competitions to be held at Mahaluxmi Fort:—
I. Gatacre Cup.—Saturday, March 20th at 7 a.m.
II. Wheal Cup.—Saturday, March 27th at 4-45 p.m.
III. Squad Drill and Guard Mounting Competition.—On the conclusion of the Annual Inspection on the afternoon of Saturday March 20th.
8. N. C. Officers and men requiring badges etc., should send in their names to Fort Head-quarters at once.

By order,
(Sd) A. J. Pelle, Lt, R. A.,
Adjutant B. V. A.

NOTICE.

The Annual Corps Dance will be held at the Town Hall on Monday next the 1st March at 9-30 p.m.

Tickets can be obtained from:—
Sergt. Major S. W. Chart, Victoria Terminus.
Sergt Major J. P. Watson, Church Gate Street.
Sergt. D. A. Pinder, B. V. A. Club Fort.
Sergt. J. J. Marsland, Byculla Ironworks.
Sergt. G. D. Traylan, Rose and Co. Fort.
Corpl. W. Harvey, A. & N. Stores Fort.
Gunner B. Defrece, Marcks and Co.

PROVINCIAL GAZETTES.

(*Punjab Gazette*, February 18.)

On relinquishing charge of the Hazara Dist Mr A B Kettlewell, Asst Commr, is deputed to the Settlement Dept and attached to the Montgomery Settlement, with effect from the forenoon of the 8th of Feb 1897.

Lieut J G Crosthwaite, Asst Commr, Kasur, is deputed to the Settlement Dept and attached to the Mooltan Settlement with effect from the forenoon of the 17th of Jan 1897.

On the completion of his training in the Montgomery Settlement, Mr C M King, Asst Commr, is posted to the Lahore Dist, where he assumed charge of his duties on the forenoon of the 8th of Feb 1897.

Mr H W Joyce, Asst Engr, 3rd grade, from the 5th Divn, Chenab Canal, to the Shahpur Canals Divn.

Lieut Col J F J Miller, I S C, Suptdg Engr, 1st class, Public Works Dept, Irrigation Branch, Punjab, is allowed furlough on private affairs, under Rule I X of the furlough Regulations of 1868, for one year, with effect from the 6th March 1897, or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of the same.

Mr F E Gwyther, Ex Engr, 3rd grade, from the Ludhiana Divn, Sirhind Canal, to the 3rd Divn, Chenab Canal.

Mr E S Bellasis Ex Engr, 1st grade, landed at Bombay, on return from furlough on medical certificate, on the forenoon of the 30th Jan 1897, and joined the Upper Sutlej Divn, Inundation Canals, to which he is posted, on the forenoon of the 2nd Feb 1897.

FLORILINE.—FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH. A few drops of the liquid "Floriline" sprinkled on a wet toothbrush produces a pleasant lather, which thoroughly cleanses the teeth from all parasites or impurities, hardens the gums, prevents tartar, stops decay, gives to the teeth a peculiar pearly whiteness and a delightful fagrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed teeth or tobacco smoke. "The Fragrant Floriline," being composed in part of honey and sweet herbs, is delicious to the taste, and the greatest toilet discovery of the age. Price 2s. 6d., of all Chemists and Perfumers. Wholesale Depot, 33, Farringdon Road, London, England.

SPECIAL SHORT ADVERTISEMENTS.

Scale for these Advertisements is as follows:—Not exceeding 3 lines, Re. 1; each succeeding line As. 8. No Trade Advertisements are admitted under this Scale.

OPERA and FIELD GLASSES.—Possessing the Maximum of Power and Penetration. Acute definition, clear vision. The distances of objects viewed through our glasses are produced 80 per cent., and consequently magnify in proportion. Price from Rs. 16—MARCKS and Co., Ld., Opticians, Bombay and Poona.

SECOND-HAND Giant Aristons to play round and long Tunes, with 3 long and 3 round tunes Rs. 90—STEFFENAUER and Co., Fort, Bombay.

TOILET SERVICES.—The latest and choicest productions of the British Potteries, such as Mintons, Wedgwood, Doulton, etc. JOHN ROBERTS and Co., Ld.—Marine Street.

COCA WINE—THOMSON & TAYLOR'S. A remarkable Nerve Tonic and Stimulant. Most Useful to those undergoing Unusual Exertion. Per Bottle, Rs. 2-4.

WHERE TO BUY YOUR SPECTACLE? The only Establishment in India where Eyes are examined Free of Charge by a duly qualified Oculist of the London Eye Hospital, and errors of refraction corrected by the latest Scientific Method of Retinoscopy. Best Pebble Spectacles are supplied at half the price charged elsewhere. D. M. DASTOOR & Co., 93, Medows Street, Fort, Bombay.

WORTH ATTENTION!—If you require sound, wholesome ALE or STOUT at most Moderate Rates, then go to MEAKIN & Co.'s Malt Liquor Stores, Rampart Row, Fort, next to Rose and Co., Rs. 2-8 per doz. pints; Rs. 4 per doz. quarts; also in 5, 9, 18, and 36 gallon casks at Re. 1 per gallon. Up-country orders promptly attended to. 6 as. per doz. allowed for empty bottles returned.

WANTED, complete turnout (DOG-CART and HORSE) with hood if possible. Apply stating price, &c. to "L W M" care of this Paper

COMPOSITORS WANTED, News and Jobbing. Apply SUPERINTENDENT, "Bombay Gazette" Press.

WANTED, SHARES of AHMEDABAD-PRANTEJ or TAPTI VALLEY RAILWAY. Apply to PENNYWISE, care of National Bank of India, ombay.

DANTRA'S Pure Ground MOCCA COFFEE, per lb. Re. 1-4. This Coffee is Daily roasted and ground from Genuine Mocca Berries in the latest pattern Closed Cylinders by experienced hands under our Own Supervision and immediately packed in Air-tight tins, the fine Aroma is preserved. Its unrivalled purity, freedom from any adulteration, richness in flavour, full strength, and uniform quality distinguish it from other Coffees sold in the market. The rapid and increasing demand it has obtained since its introduction is a sufficient proof of its superior quality and moderate price.—N. B. DANTRA and Co., 33, Church Gate Street, Fort, Bombay.

NILGHERRY TEA.—This Rich Choice Blend at Re. 1 per lb. cannot be equalled by any other Teas at even Re. 1-8 per lb. MORTON, MAJU and Co., Church Gate Street, Fort, Bombay.

ST. PETER'S BOYS' SCHOOL for BOARDERS has OPENED at Nasik Road. School at Mazagon for Day Pupils open as usual. Terms on application to Mr. J. DYMOND, B.A., Loud., Nasik Road, G.I.P.R.

FOR SALE, an OPENER and EXHAUST, a lot of second-hand Fire Bricks, Seating Blocks, Engine Foundation Stones, and Cast Iron and Steel Gearing. Bevel Wheels, New Brass Boiler Mountings, New Brass Condenser Tubes, New Loomoor Iron Bolts for Fly-wheel, one piece of Suction Rubber Pipe, etc. Apply to the COLABA LAND AND MILL Co., Ld.

CHAMBELLAN'S ANTI-CHOLERIC is a most efficacious Antidote against PLAGUE. It was used last year with excellent success both in China and Indo-China. Per Box, Re. 1-10. Dr. S. B. SHROFF, 77, Mint Road, Bombay.

MATHERAN.—RUGBY HOTEL, MATHERAN, is now OPEN. It is most comfortable and is very centrally situated. It contains good detached Bungalows suitable for families, all open to Westerly breeze. Rooms are bright, airy and commodious. Terms moderate. For terms, etc., apply to PROPRIETORS, Rugby Hotel.

ALEXANDRA HOTEL, BOMBAY.—I stayed in this Hotel for 5 days, and received every attention from Mr Pestonji, the Proprietor, and the Staff. The Proprietor kindly arranged for a place to cook my food and I am much obliged to him for it. I recommend this Hotel to all Orthodox Hindus—RADHA KISHAN RAI BAHADUR Kashmir.

CHEAPNESS never goes with good quality, Outward elegance in German articles is to take up the eye and far from permanency. Solid, good and lasting mechanism is to be found in SINGER'S SEWING MACHINE, who carry the day in every contest.

BICYCLES.—CHEAPEST CYCLE FIRM. Ladies' and Gent's Cycles of different makes at exceptionally Low Rates.—J. LANGLEY and Co., Kalbadevi, ombay.

BOOTS and SHOES are made to Order of the best English Leathers at the Fort Leather Works, 6 Tamarind Lane, Fort, Bombay. Catalogue sent free.

THE INDIAN RAILWAY GUIDE.—An indispensable Book for Travellers in India and the East, contains the Special Time and Fare Tables of all the Indian Railway Companies, the Steamer Routes in India, and the Eastern Seas, and other useful information. Price 8 Annas. Coloured Map of India revised from Official sources. To be had at the "Bombay Gazette" Office, and at all Booksellers and Railway Terminus.

CHOLERA in BOMBAY!!! The Patells (Headmen) of Worli Colivad, certify that NOT A SINGLE MAN DIED of CHOLERA, who used Batliwalla and Co.'s Choleral during the late epidemic...........as for Batliwalla's Ague Mixture or Pills, no more Testimonials are required when they are used with success for the Staff of the Bombay Municipality, "Bombay Gazette," "Times of India," "Advocate of India," &c., &c. They maintain their supremacy as special and specific remedies for the treatment of Malarious, Intermittent, and Bilious Fevers. Sold by Chemists and Druggists, at Re. 1 per bottle, or sent by Dr. BATLIWALLA, Worli, Dadur, Bombay. Discount to the Trade.

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In Dr. MENIST'S PERFECT PEBBLE SPECTACLES every detail has been most carefully studied. Not only does he use the purest natural Crystal or Pebble, which is infinitely better for the Eye than any artificial Glass, but cuts the Lenses in strict accordance with the latest improvements of Science, combined with a principle discovered by himself, which renders them quite unapproachable by those of any other maker. The frames, too, are the results of years of patient study and gradual improvement, leaving now little to be desired.

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THIS BRANDY is much approved in Great Britain, America, and Australia and has been recognized for upwards of a century. It needs only to be tasted to be appreciated. for it is undoubtedly the best shipped to India. Rs. 2-4 per Bottle, of D. C OOMRIGUR, D. D. BARIA, M. P. BARIA. J. N. GAZDAR, S. C. OOMRIGUR, E. B. LAKDAWALA, J. F. KATHOKE, and other Licensed Wine and Spirit Merchants.

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One new English-built C Spring CANOE LANDAU with patent self-acting Hood, by Lucas of London.
One set of best English silver-mounted Four-in-hand HARNESS, suitable for Arab and Waler horses.
One set of best English silver-mounted pair-horse HARNESS, suitable for Arab and Waler horses.
Second-hand LANDAUS, VICTORIAS and BROUGHAMS by other well-known makers.
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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 24.

CONSOLS advanced 3/8ths per cent. in London yesterday, say to 112 5/8; and Indian Sterling Loan was ⅛ per cent. higher, at 117⅛. The market rate of discount on short London Bills was unchanged at 2 per cent; but that on six months' sight Indian Bank Paper was reduced 1/8th per cent., to 1⅞ per cent. Three and-a-half Rupee Securities were again 1/8th per cent. lower, at £62 3/8. The price of Bar Silver in London remained at 29 11-16; the value of the metal being also unchanged in New York at 64 5/8 cents per oz.; with demand Exchange on London unaltered at 4·87 dollars. The Exchange Banks' buying rate in London on India was still 1s. 2 27-32d., at 30 days' sight. Braziers' Copper was quoted at £59 per ton; and Yellow Metal at 5 3-16. French Rentes in Paris were unchanged yesterday at 102⅛; Paris Exchange on London was a shade lower, at fcs. 25·18⅛.

The quantity of Wheat afloat for the United Kingdom on Friday evening was 2,130,000 quarters, or 140,000 quarters less than was upon the water at the end of the previous week.

Yellow Guzerat Rapeseed was quoted in London yesterday at 40s. per 416 lbs. sellers via the Canal, March-April shipment to Havre, Antwerp, and Dunkirk, tone of the market dull; Brown Rapeseed at 37⅞s. per 416 lbs., sellers via Canal, same shipment to the same ports; market dull; and Linseed at 33 5/8s. per 486 lbs. new contract, same shipment to Dunkirk, business done via Canal. Market dull.

An advance of 1-32d. took place in the price of spot Mid-American Cotton in Liverpool yesterday, at 3 15-16d. per lb.; and Arrivals were 3-64d. higher in the nearer positions, and 1-64d. in the more distant, the quotation being now 3 7-8d. per lb. for all deliveries from February to July. In East Indian Cotton, Surats and Tinnevellys were 1-32d. higher; but Egyptian "Fair" Brown declined 1-16d., to 4⅜d. per. lb. The market closed steady; Surats firmer; and Arrivals steady. Sales 10,000 bales, inclusive of 300 East Indians. Imports 25,000 bales.

The Manchester market closed quiet yesterday, with 38in. 7lbs. Grey Shirtings fair makes quoted by Reuter at 3s. 11½d. per piece; 38in. 8¼ lbs. Shirtings, fair makes, at 4s. 8d.; 37in. 20 lbs. Jaconets at 1s. 11d.; 42in. 20 lbs. Mulls, at 2s. 1d.; and 40s. Mule Twist, at 7⅛d. per lb.

The New York Cotton market re-opened yesterday after the holiday, and ready Mid.-Uplands was still quoted at 7⅛ cents per lb. Futures for May being 3 points higher, at 7·01 cents. The Receipts at the U. S. Ports (for ten days) were 37,000 bales; and the total figures for this season to date now compare as follows with those in the two previous seasons for the same time.

	1897.	1896.	1895
Saturday's and Monday's Receipts	37,000	31,000	41,009
Since 1st September 1893	5,853,000	4,363,000	6,531,000

There has been a better demand for Cotton in our local market for this staple to-day, both from European exporters, and shippers to Japan, and quotations are again higher. Ready Broach has been done at Rs. 190; but sellers, at the close were asking higher prices. Bengals are Rs. 141½-2 for "Fully Good; and Rs. 153-4 for "Fine.

WHEAT AND SEEDS.—There is no ready business passing in these markets, the tone of which is dull, but prices nominally unchanged. Forward rates for *Linseed* are quoted one anna per cwt. lower.

The receipts of Produce into Bombay yesterday were as follows:—

Cotton	5,324	bales.
Wheat	1,375	cwts.
Linseed	624	"
Gingellyseed	2,772	"
Groundnuts	1,561	"
Castorseed	2,086	"
Rice	31,998	"

EXCHANGE opened quiet at 1s. 3 1-8d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and at 1s. 3¼d. for three months' sight Credits. There has been very little business passing either way to-day, and the rate for Bank Wire Transfer receded 1-32d., the market closing quiet as follows:—

Bank Bills on Demand	1s. 3 1-8d.	per Rupee.
Do. Telegraphic	1s. 3 3-32d.	"
Do. 3 months' sight	1s. 3 5-32d.	"
Credits do.	1s. 3 1-4d.	"
Francs do.	1·60 1-4.	"

FREIGHTS remain quiet, and no business worth reporting has transpired to-day. Cotton rates are, for February shipment, to Liverpool, 13s. 9d. and for Antwerp, 12s. 6d.; and for March, 12s. 6d. per ton.

GOVERNMENT PAPER is very quiet in the absence of any business to speak of. Rates for 3½ per Cents, which were quoted at opening at 99 5-8 for Money, and 99¾ for Account were afterwards called 1-16th. per cent. higher in both positions, 96½ having been named for Threes, nominal.

SHARES.—The Bazaar remains closed.

GODHRA-RUTLAM NAGPUR RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 7th November, 1896, on 140·57 Miles open.

—	Coaching Traffic Receipts.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic Receipts.	Other Earnings [estimated.]	Total Earnings.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total traffic for the week	,000	7,900	20	10,920
Or per mile of Railway	22	56	...	78
For previous 18 weeks of half-year.	59,411	1,92,195	2,575	2,54,181
Total for 19 weeks...	62,411	2,00,095	2,565	2,65,101
Comparison. Total for corresponding week of previous year	4,002	15,411	29	19,462
Per mile of Ry. do.	35	134	...	169
Total to corresponding date do.	57,566	1,63,009	1,211	2,31,786

Decrease for the week ....Rs. 8,512
Increase to date .... " 43,315

B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 23rd January, 1897, on 461 Miles open.

—	Coaching Traffic Receipts.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic Receipts.	Other Earnings [estimated.]	Total Earnings.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total traffic for the week	1,05,000	1,55,000	4,000	2,74,000
Or per mile of Railway	228	358	8	594
For previous 2 weeks of half-year.	2,78,000	3,37,000	9,000	6,24,000
Total for 3 weeks ...	3,83,000	5,02,000	13,000	8,98,000
Comparison. Total for corresponding week of previous year	1,08,373	[illegible]	10,164	3,55,369
Per mile of Ry do.	235	514	22	771
Total to corresponding date do.	3,71,447	8,01,335	18,059	11,93,841

Decrease for the week........................Rs. 81,369
Ditto to date .... " 2,95,841

G. I. P. RAILWAY.

(Open 1,490¼ Miles.)

The following is the Statement of Traffic for week ending 30th January, 1897:—

	Coaching Traffic.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic.	Other Earnings (Estimated)	Total Earnings
	Receipts.	Receipts.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total	1,85,551	,83,928	5,519	6,74,998
Corresponding week last year. Open 1,490¼ Miles.	...	...	...	8,97,566

Decrease 2,22,568

I. M. RAILWAY.

(Week ending 6th February 1897.)

Description.	1897.	1896.	Inc. for the week.	Dec. for the week.	Aggregate Inc.	Aggregate Dec.
Miles Open	752	752	...	...	..	...
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers, Parcels, &c.	42,778	51,239	..	8,461	...	18,443
Goods	63,766	54,911	8,855	...	...	5,329
Other earnings	2,888	3,569	...	681	...	3,780
Total for week	1,09,432	1,09,719	...	287	...	...
Aggregate	6,13,806	6,41,358	...	...	...	27,552

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

KHANDWA.

MARRIAGE.

DE SOUZA—MARQUIS—February 24, at Khandwa, D. G. Furtunatus de Souza, of Vacuum Oil Co., Bombay, to Miss Petronilla Marquis.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

BIRTHS.

DEIGHTON—February 20, at Woodlands, Coonoor, the wife of Hamilton Deighton, D.S.P., Burma Police, of a son.
JOHNSTON—February 19, at Alicemount, Lahore, the wife of E. W. Johnston, of a son.
SMITH—February 14, at Raniganj, the wife of the Rev. F W. Ambery Smith, of a son.
THUILLIER—February 16, at Rawalpindi, the wife of Lieut. H. F. Thuillier, R. E., of a son.
WILKINSON—February 21, at 7, Chowringhee, Calcutta, the wife of Mence Wilkinson, of a daughter.
WORKMAN—February 3, at No. 8, Chapel Road, Hastings, Calcutta, the wife of E. Workman, of a daughter.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

⁂ ALL communications intended for publication in our columns, should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any individual member of the staff.

The Bombay Gazette

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1897.

THE list of interpellations made at the meeting of the Legislative Council, yesterday, would have been considerably shortened if the non-official members, or rather the half-dozen of them who are always in an enquiring mood, had conferred together before sending in their proposed questions to the Secretary. Again and again honourable members were referred to replies already given to previous interrogators; and in other cases questions, although necessitating separate replies, differed but slightly in detail from those which had gone before. Thus almost identical enquiries respecting the remission and suspension of land revenue in consequence of the Famine were down in the names of Messrs. Setalvad, Tilak, and Khare. The two latter honourable members joined with Mr. Javerilal in asking for additional particulars to those already supplied in the weekly reports respecting the existing Famine. The three separate answers of Mr. Nugent to these requests, all laid down in more or less direct terms the principle that Government could not consent to add to the labours of officers already fully employed by requiring from them detailed weekly statements which in the view of Government would serve no practical purpose. There is a great deal in the complaint made by Lord Kimberley in the House of Lords, two or three weeks ago, that far too much of the time of officials in this country is occupied in compiling voluminous reports. This being, so no more inopportune time could be chosen than the present to add to the labours of District Officers by calling upon them to report weekly, as Mr. Javerilal desires, on school attendance, execution of decrees, registration, and criminal statistics—subjects which, to say the least, have very little immediate connection with the famine relief operations. We believe we are right in saying that no meeting of the Legislative Council has occurred within the last three years at which questions have not been asked, the answering of which would involve a departure from broad and well-defined principles of administration in this country. The enquiry Mr. Javerilal put regarding the alleged "slur" on Mr. Deshmukh by his transfer from the Collectorship of Sholapur to the Assistant Collectorship of Kanara, certainly belonged to that category. The honourable member overlooked the principle, affirmed by Mr. Nugent, in reply, that "the responsibility of estimating the merits of their servants and their fitness for particular posts rests entirely on Government, and appointments are made under a full sense of that responsibility." Perhaps the most noteworthy answer given during the morning was that of Lord Sandhurst to the attenuated remainder of the string of questions Mr. Setalvad wished to put regarding the appointment of Sir Charles Ollivant as the Judicial member of the Executive Council. The application for particulars as to "the arrangements Government proposed to make for the disposal of judicial appeals coming up for the decision of Government after the retirement of the Hon. Mr. Birdwood," was allowed to stand. But it only elicited from the President the statement, "They will be disposed of by the Governor in Council."

The suspension of the standing orders was the rule rather than the exception when the Council entered upon its legislative functions, and this enabled three bills—one of which was down for first reading—to be carried. The first of trio, providing certain amendments of the Boiler Inspection Act of 1891. was non-contentious, and received the benediction of Mr. Wadia, the member of the assembly most interested, as a large employer of factory labour, in the subject. The conciliatory attitude of the Select Committee that had been appointed to consider the Bill for appropriating the funds raised years ago in Kaira and Ahmedabad for the prevention of female infanticide, was the outcome of the petitions addressed to the Council by the communities principally concerned in the measure. The report of the Committee favoured an amendment of the bill ensuring to the people from whom the funds were raised the expenditure of the money for their benefit, and its adoption by Government left very little room for further opposition. Such as did remain was swept away by the Government's acceptance of the amendment standing in the name of Mr. Mehta—who unfortunately was prevented by illness from attending to move it—that the benefit should be exclusively educational. Mr. Setalvad was not present to move a long amendment of which he had given notice, and the bill was passed without opposition. But a different fate awaited the measure which is intended to give the Municipal Commissioner power to delegate to his Deputy, when one is provided for him, the duty of attending the meetings of the Corporation and the Standing Committee, so far as he may deem desirable. For the first time since the Councils were enlarged a division was pressed for and taken. This was, upon Mr. Dharamsi's proposal, regarded by Lord Sandhurst as inimical to the principle of the bill to permit the Municipality alone to decide on what occasions of emergency the duty of attending the meetings should be delegated to the Deputy. The Government gave to this proposal an uncompromising opposition, and carried more than two-thirds of the Council with them. As was pointed out by Mr. Birdwood and Mr. Nugent, the Commissioner's power to attend the meetings is not taken away by the bill. He simply will have the option of sending his Deputy instead of going himself when more urgent work stands in the way. It may be anticipated that any man fitted for the responsible duties appertaining to the Municipal Commissionership will be the best judge as to whether his own attendance at a particular meeting is of more urgency and importance than other work he may have on hand at the time. The Bill was passed, and as soon as the assent of the Government of India has been obtained to it, it will be competent for Mr. Snow to be represented at the Municipal meetings by the Deputy, who has yet to be appointed, to the Municipal Meetings while he is engaged in eradicating plague or other emergent work—more necessary, if less congenial.

M. HANOTAUX and Mr. George Curzon are apparently at variance on a question of fact. The French Foreign Minister informed the Chamber of Deputies on Monday that Great Britain had suggested that the Dardanelles should be forced and the Sultan seized. He added that the Powers would not agree to that course, and Great Britain then adhered to the proposal made by France, that the ambassadors of all the Powers should collaborate in fashioning a scheme of reforms, and decided that Crete should never return to direct Turkish administration. The first part of this circumstantial statement was contradicted by Mr. Curzon on Tuesday evening. He denied that Great Britain suggested that the Dardanelles should be forced and the Sultan seized. Probably it will be found that the difference will ultimately turn upon verbal technicalities rather than upon facts. It is undeniable that in September and October last a belief prevailed that Lord Salisbury contemplated a coup at Constantinople. So strong was that belief that the Turkish Government sent seventeen thousand men to strengthen the defences of the Dardanelles. The Russian Government did not consider the apprehensions of the Porte to be altogether unfounded. Russian Generals were sent to advise the Turkish engineers, and in due time they reported to the Sultan that the Dardanelles were strong enough to successively resist a naval attack. Nevertheless, to make assurance doubly sure, the Black Sea fleet and the garrisons of Sebastopol and Odessa were mobilised. The necessary material for placing submarine mines in the Dardanelles and the Hellespont was put on board certain steamers, and everything got ready to defend the Dardanelles and Constantinople against an attack by sea. All this does not of course prove that Lord Salisbury had "suggested" to the Powers that the Dardanelles should be forced and the Sultan seized. He may have contemplated doing something of the kind off his own bat, or he may not. Lord Rosebery at all events deemed it necessary to protest against isolated action by Great Britain; which would in his view be the prelude to a general European war. He resigned the leadership of the Liberal Party to dissociate himself from the Armenian agitation which seemed but too likely to impel the Government to a course which he rightly conceived to be full of peril. The protest was timely. It relieved the Government from a pressure to which the Prime Minister seemed on the point of yielding, and aroused public opinion to a sense of the dangers into which an unreflecting enthusiasm was hurrying the Empire. Lord Rosebery was rewarded for his patriotic resolve to save the Government and the country in spite of themselves, by a general chorus of approval from the Conservatives and Liberals. Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Asquith repeated his warnings in a different key, and Lord Salisbury repeated what he had said in the previous November, that the only instrument of reform in Turkey is the Sultanate, for without the co-operation of the Sultan nothing could be done. It would be strange if the apprehensions which sent Russian officers in haste on secret missions to superintend and hasten the new defensive works on the Dardanelles, and caused the mobilisation of the fleet at Sabastopol, were misapprehensions, and that Lord Rosebery's action was at once gratuitous and superfluous. But such must have been the case if there was no suggestion hypnotic or otherwise that the Powers should stand by acquiescent while the Dardanelles were forced and Abdul the Damned taken into custody. Now that Ministers and Under-Secretaries are breaking silence, we may expect to get at the truth, at all events, approximately. But if even a blue book does tell the whole truth, ministers may under a sense of duty to the interests which they represent refrain from saying too much. As Prince Bismarck expressed it in his frank German manner, a diplomatist must sometimes diplomatise. What is true of diplomatists is equally true of ministers. But it will always remain a mystery why the Power suspected rightly or wrongly of a strong desire to burst through the Dardanelles and seize the Sultan in the Yildiz Kiosk, should before six months are over cannonade Canea to prolong the subjection of Crete to the sway of the Sultan. Who would have believed it possible a year ago that this action would have been taken in concert with one of the Emperor William's cruisers? How soon the telegram to President Kruger has been forgotten!

LORD SANDHURST's appeal to the Justices of the Peace—a body who, for at least a hundred and fifty years, had charge of the Sanitation of Bombay—to volunteer for active work in combating the pestilence, met with a ready response so far as the inscription of names on the list went. It is sincerely to be hoped that the failure to act up to the declarations in favour of voluntary segregation of the sick and of erecting costly hospitals and of fulfiling the promises to influence the population at large to resort to them, will not be repeated on the present occasion. His Excellency made a strong appeal to the Native Justices who speak the language and are conversant with the habits and failings of their poorer countrymen, to go about among them and point out the danger to their own lives of concealing cases, clinging together in confined insanitary dwellings, and refusing to go to the temporary structures erected for them. It is unquestionable that the course the bulk of the population has hitherto taken is suicidal to themselves, disastrous to others, and ruinous to the city. If the Justices or any considerable number of them will enter upon this mission in an earnest spirit, they will effectually aid the executive in their efforts to eradicate the sickness which has been so fatal to those who set all hygienic rules at defiance. We must hope that this strenuous co-operation invited by the Governor in person will not be withheld. The Justices were frankly told that the Government is desirous of securing voluntary action, but that if action be not taken voluntarily then the stringent powers conferred under the recent Act of the Supreme Legislature will be used. The European Justices were present in considerable numbers, though the appeal was not made to them, for their countrymen do not conceal cases, and do not require to be told that the chances of recovery are considerably increased by skilled treatment in a hospital, and that it is criminal folly to refuse the help provided for them. If the Native community will in this matter of life or death follow the example set by their European fellow-citizens they will hasten the day of deliverance from the evil that now oppresses the city. But it must be distinctly understood that the day is past when promises that certain things will be done can be held to be so many reasons for doing nothing. Time is of the essence of the matter. What is done quickly is twice done. That is an axiom which the Government will act upon if the Justices of the Peace do not, in the Shakespearian sense, prevent them.

Two fresh cases of the pestilence among Europeans were admitted to the infectious diseases ward of St. George's Hospital yesterday. One of these was Mr. McDonald, an employe of the B. B. and C. I. Railway Company; the other Mr. O'Brien, who is connected with a local mercantile firm. The other European patients are on a fair way to recovery, and it is confidently hoped that Mrs. Chandler will be discharged cured within another week. A third admission yesterday was the case of a poor Goanese, who was not really entitled to admission and treatment at this hospital. He had, however, been already carried in from Mahim, and after travelling five or six miles it was not deemed desirable to let him be taken further, especially as prompt and careful attention are necessary in cases of the kind. Several cases have been treated at the hospital, as Dr. Arnott cannot turn them away when their condition has been critical. It is as well, however, that it should be generally known that St. George's Hospital is intended for the reception and treatment of sick Europeans and others of European habits whom the Medical officer in charge may deem to be suitable patients for this hospital. This latter is a very elastic clause, and empowers the medical officer to reject many who are admitted. The publication of this fact may save trouble and serious inconvenience to the poorer Goanese patients and their friends. It is gratifying to find that the nurses at St. George's hospital are doing their duty courageously and well. Each in turn gets a spell at the plague cases—a week of day, then a week of night duty, after which, in fresh apparel and thoroughly well disinfected, she goes back to general duty. A plague patient it appears is not nearly so disagreeable as a cholera or small-pox patient; indeed, there is little difference between him and an ordinary fever case except that he is prone to delirium, and is not then one of the most entertaining of companions for a midnight vigil.

IT has been decided that Mr. George Cotton shall be asked to fill the post of President of the Corporation for the next year. This selection is in accordance with the practice which has been observed from the beginning that the Presidentship shall be held alternately by the European and Native communities. Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna, who has occupied the chair of the Standing Committee for the last year, will be re-elected for the ensuing year.

THE letter from the Hon'ble P. M. Mehta, which the President desired to read to the Corporation on Monday last, but was stopped on a point of order raised by Mr. Roughton, stated that if illness had not prevented him he would have moved urgency for a resolution appointing a Deputy Municipal Commissioner to be selected by the Municipal Commissioner. Mr. Mehta added that under present circumstances it is of special importance that the Deputy Commissioner should be one of whom the Commissioner would approve.

A SPECIAL train will leave Church Gate Station at 2-55 p.m., local time, to-day, for the races.

THE Indian Troop Service Transport Dilwara left Suez on Monday, the 22nd instant, and may be expected to arrive in Bombay on the 4th March!

A LARGE portion of Reynold's Hotel Metropole, Agra, was destroyed by fire on Friday night. The military fire engine turned out promptly, but the building being thatched was soon gutted. No lives were lost.

THE expedition against the Apatanangs has been quite successful, the captives held by the tribesmen having been recovered. Mr. McCabe is now returning to North Lakhimpur. The Apatanangs made no resistance.

Two schemes for insurance against want of employment have existed for two or three years past in Switzerland, one in the canton of Berne, and one in that of St. Gall. The former was voluntary, but in St. Gall the labourer was compelled to insure. The American Consuls at Chemitz and St. Gall have both recently reported on the subject, and the former states that men whose work is steady and likely to continue to complain bitterly that they are compelled to support in idleness others whose labour is uncertain, but who, for that very reason, are better paid when they are at work. "It is not in the nature of things for such a system to succeed, even among so loyal, loving, and gentle a folk as the Swiss. The effort is not vain, if it will teach the thoughless how hard it is to make laws, or to institute any system that is to take the place of thrift and economy during the days when work is plentiful." Some time after this report the Consul at St. Gall wrote that the experiment has been abandoned at the instance of the labourers themselves. He says they "found that a system which insured against loss of work resulted in the promotion of laziness and idleness. In fact, a knowledge of the existence of this system of insurance had drawn to St. Gall a considerable number of unemployed from other parts of Switzerland, with the object of obtaining support at the expense of resident labourers." Hence the system, disappears on and after June 30th next.

IN the semi-finals for Messrs. John and Co.'s Football Cup, the B. Telegraph Company, Agra Volunteer Rifles, scored one goal against the F. Company, East Surrey Regiment. The latter protested against the point, but the referee allowed it. The East surrey men thereupon left the ground in high dudgeon. In the match between the 9th Company, Western Division, R.A., from Jhansi, and the 59th Field Battery, R. A. from Nowgong, the latter won by one goal after a hard struggle.

SURGEON-CAPTAIN VAUGHAN, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Western Bengal Circle, has been appointed in place of Professor Haffkine to conduct anti-cholera inoculation work, and will have his headquarters at Purulia district. Officers are warned to inform Dr. Vaughan of any outbreaks of cholera.

SOMEBODY saved money in India last year, it is refreshing to know. While the number of banks decreased by forty-four, depositors increased by 33,345 and an advance of over half a crore of rupees in the amount of balances was recorded for the year ended March 1896. Another equally satisfactory feature of the report is that the military banks continue to show increased balances, and the same may be said of the other service institutions. The Savings Banks balances of all kinds now represent ten crores, all of which are held by Government at call!

A PROFOUND impression has been created in the whole of the Madulkelle District of Ceylon by the sad end of Mr. W. A. Greig, of Leangalla Estate. Mr. Greig, it appears, was to leave the estate, and, being in ill health, was to take a trip Home; but on Thursday week it was found that he was missing, and a search led to his being discovered in a back room of his bungalow with two deep gashes on his neck, and a razor on the ground by his side. Mr. Greig was found dead, but still in a standing posture, against the wall. Early on the following morning an inquest was held, preceded by a *post mortem* examination. Mr. Greig was buried the same afternoon, when a large number of his brother planters attended. Deceased was 47 years of age, and had been two and-a-half years on Leangalla Esta[redacted]

TELEGRAMS.

[REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.]

M. HANOTAUX'S STATEMENT.

A FLAT CONTRADICTION.

LONDON, FEB. 24.

In the House of Commons, last night, Mr. Curzon, replying to a question, denied that Great Britain had suggested that the Dardanelles should be forced and the Sultan seized.

BRITISH MISSION TO ABYSSINIA.

Mr. Rennell Rodd is going on a special mission to King Menelik with an autograph letter from her Majesty the Queen, and will be accompanied by Major Wingate and Captain Swayne on behalf of India.

Count Gleichen, Lord Edward Cecil, and others also accompany the party.

THE SITUATION IN CRETE.

The foreign Consuls telegraph that the situation in Crete is dangerous.

Two thousand Mussulmans have blockaded Candamos, and one thousand have blockaded Spanico and Seleno.

THE ABYSSINIAN QUESTION.

The "Times" says that in view of Russian and French activity in Abyssinia, that it has been injudicious for Great Britain to remain idle in that quarter.

THE PESTILENCE IN POONA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

POONA, FEB. 24.

There were fifteen cases and twelve deaths, to-day, in the city of Poona, and five cases and two deaths in the hospital.

The Mahomedans have raised subscriptions for a plague hospital, nearly two thousand having already subscribed. The acting hospital is in the Ghorupdeo Peth.

A few wealthy Brahmin citizens waited on Mr. Rand for obtaining permission to erect a plague hospital for the high-caste Hindus on a site selected and recommended.

A great deal of excitement is prevailing in the city for the segregation of cases. When a patient is laid up, they never inform the authorities, an dleave the body in a dark place. Yesterday, a case happened in the city, and they brought the body in the cantonment. The relations tried to hide the body in one of the schools. As soon as the Cantonment authorities heard of it, they went searching it. They eventually searched five or six neighbouring houses, but could not find it. This morning a body was found dead in the same house which was searched yesterday. The authorities have ordered the school to close for eight days. In the city the people are so afraid for segregation that they give no information to the Municipality. Mr. Rand has ordered for twenty-four more medical men to assist in the segregation.

Several shops and houses have been closed, and it is stated about 5,000 have left Poona within a fortnight.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS]

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

SUEZ, FEB. 23.

The Clan Line steamer Clan Buchanan, from Calcutta, Madras, and Colombo, arrived here this morning.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Oceana, from Colombo, arrived here this morning.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Borneo, from Colombo, arrived here this morning.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Malta, from Colombo arrived here yesterday evening.

PENANG, FEB. 24.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer Medusa, from Kobe, left for Bombay this afternoon.

COLOMBO, FEB. 24.

Mail steamer Bengal, from Calcutta, arrived.

Mail steamer Valetta, from Australia, arrived.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, FEB. 23.

The Liverpool Cotton Market closed steady. Surats firmer.

Good Dhollera	3 12-32

The Manchester Market has been quiet.

2¾ per cent. Consols	112 5-8
3 per cent. Rentes	102½
3½ per cent. Sterling Loan	117½
3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	62 3-8
Bar Silver	29 11-16

TELEGRAPHIC LINE REPORT.

FEBRUARY 24.

STATE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Via Teheran, perfect. Via Turkey, perfect. Via Suez, perfect.

CONTINENT OF EUROPE.—Via Teheran, perfect. Via Turkey, perfect. Via Suez, perfect.

AMERICA.—Via Brest, perfect. Via Valentia, perfect. Via Direct Cable, perfect.

AUSTRALIA.—Via Penang, perfect. Via Amoor, perfect.

CHINA.—Via Penang, perfect. Via Amoor, perfect. Via Bhamo, perfect.

AFRICA.—Via Aden, perfect. Via Cadiz-Teneriffe, perfect. Via Lisbon St. Vincent, perfect.

Bhamo route to China, right.

Cable Assab Massauah, interrupted. Telegrams between Assab and Massauah are transported by boat.

FOREIGN TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE.

Latest dates of foreign messages received at Bombay, from the United Kingdom, during the 24 hours ending, at 8 p.m. of the 24th February, 1897.

(Difference in Longitude allowed for.)

Via.	Latest Dates. D.	H.	M.	Time occupied in transmission. Hours.	Minutes.
Turkey	23	6	... p.m.	10	55
Teheran	24	2	32 p.m.	...	30
Suez	24	3	... p.m.	...	5

Time occupied in the transmission of messages to Bombay, during the 24 hours ending, at 8 p.m., of the 24th February, 1897.

—	Maximum Time. H.	M.	Minimum Time. H.	M.
From Calcutta	...	16	..	1
" Karachi	...	8	..	1
" Madras	...	38	...	5

THERMOMETER READINGS.

TUESDAY NIGHT.—FEBRUARY 23.

10 p.m.	74·2

WEDNESDAY.—FEBRUARY 24.

6 a.m.	73·2
10 a.m.	77·3
2 p.m.	79·0
4 p.m.	77·9

AN Irish rector, writes to the "Daily Telegraph:" Amongst the many schemes proposed for the improvement of Ireland with the money which it is hope and confidently believed will be refunded by England, may I suggest that of constructing a ship canal between Golway and Dublin? The ground has been already surveyed, and the levels taken by an English gentleman (some ten years ago), and the estimated cost at that time was about £10,000,000. Another which suggests itself is that of a submarine tunnel between the two countries. The advantages from an Imperial point of view of these two schemes are so obvious that further remark by me is unnecessary; and surely it would be a graceful tribute to her gracious Majesty, and signalise her long and peaceful reign if both the canal and tunnell receive the honoured name of "Victoria." Combined with the above two schemes that of purchasing the Irish railways would, in my opinion, confer a permanent advantage on and a powerful link between the two countries.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE *Pioneer* remarks that it is curious, in connection with the cry that is being raised in Bombay about the appointment of a Revenue Civilian to the Local Council, to remember that only a few years ago a much greater agitation sprang up in Madras when it was supposed that a High Court judge was going to be selected for a Councillorship. Public meetings even were announced, and the air was full of threatened protests and other such like manifestations of public displeasure. The local press followed suit and various arguments were produced to show that it was inadvisable that High Court judges should be promoted to a place in the Government, in the forefront being the contention that such a practice would tend to undermine the independence of the Bench by keeping judges on the look out for advancement to come. Whether because of the agitation or in spite of it the appointment was not made. Mr. Justice Parker remained in the High Court and the subject dropped. But it is strange to see that the same appointment which we are told that public opinion in Bombay demands if merely mooted in Madras provokes a roar of disapprobation.

IT will probably have been noticed, remarks a contemporary, that in a recent *Gazette* Colonel Wace, Inspector-General of Ordnance in Bengal, has been appointed to succeed General Walker in the post which the latter held for seven years with such conspicuous ability and success. This was an appointment which we foreshadowed some months ago. But there appears to be some doubt as to who is to succeed Colonel Wace in Bengal. Departmentally the next senior officer appears to be Major Fixott, at present Deputy Director-General at Simla. But it would appear that the Secretary of State has not unreasonably raised objections to the appointment of an officer of the rank of Major to so important a post as that of Inspector-General. At any rate the matter is apparently hanging fire for the present, since no appointment to the vacancy has as yet been made. It would seem to be quite on the cards that Colonel Campbell, a first class Ordnance Officer, junior departmentally to Major Fixott, may get the place.

MR. FARRER has arrived in Calcutta from Madras and taken up his duties as Deputy Director-General of the Postal Department, relieving Mr. Kisch, who has been placed on special duty preliminary to proceeding to the Postal Conference at Washington, which meets in May.

THE Calcutta Polo Club have won the local tournament, beating the Viceregal Staff team in the final.

THE Bengal Government have granted 9½ lakhs for additional expenditure on famine works in Behar, Darbhanga district receives 4 lakhs, Mozufferpore 2½, Champaran 2 and Saran 1.

MEASURES will be taken to make the suspension of pilgrimage to Mecca widely known all over India, and more particularly in centres with a large Mahomedan population. Pilgrims arriving in the Punjab from Central Asia will be informed of the prohibition. The Amir of Kabul will doubtless be asked to give currency to the news in his dominions. The Czar's Government should also make it public in Bokhara, Samarkand and the chief towns in Russian Turkistan.

THIRTY Royal Engineers in the Military Works Department have now been warned for famine duty. These officers will be able to render valuable assistance to the civil staff during the trying hot weather period which is rapidly approaching. A number of Staff Corps officers are also being employed on similar duty.

THE Kashmir Durbar has taken precautions against plague, and hospital assistants to inspect passengers have been posted at Suchetgrah and Jammu Railway stations. It is certainly to be hoped that the plague may not reach the Valley of Kashmir, where the surroundings and climate would apparently be so favourable to its spread. Surgeon-Colonel Deane, the Residency Surgeon of Kashmir, is now on his way from Srinagar in connection with the subject.

THE Madras Government, on a representation made by the Collector of Ganjam, has sanctioned the expenditure of Rs. 20,000 for the purpose of making money advances to weavers during the current official year. The Collector estimates that the relief of weavers may cost a lakh of rupees for about three months, and he has been requested to submit estimates with a detailed scheme.

THE final tie in the Calcutta Polo Tournament was played on Saturday afternoon between the Calcutta Polo Club and the compound team of the Viceroy's Staff and Bodyguard. The former team comprised the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, Mr. West, Mr. Cartwright and Mr. McLeod; and the latter, Major Turner, Lord Fincastle, Captain Adam and Captain Birdwood. There was a very large attendgnce of spectotors, the play being watched with the greatest interest. The game was a close and exciting one, but in the last period the Staff could not hold their own, as their ponies were exhausted. In the first chukkur the Staff scored one goal and one subsidiary to one goal. At the end of the second they had made a second goal. In the third chukkur Mr. Turner scored another goal immediately the ball was thrown into play. Calcutta then played up brilliantly, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, who had been playing back, changing places with Mr. West, No. 3. The chukkur ended by the score being equalised. In the last period Calcutta made two more goals, thus winning by five goals and three subsidiaries to three goals and two subsidiaries. The Maharaja of Cooch Behar and Mr. Turner were particularly good in their play throughout. The Maharani of Cooch Behar presented each member of the winning team with a silver cup, which Mr. Ezra had offered as prizes.

THE most important portion of the ceremonies connected with the marriage of the first Princess Jaia Lakhshmiamir with Kantrajurs took place on Friday at the Palace, Mysore, in the presence of all the high officials of the State and a large number of minor officials. There was a large concourse of the public, including a few European ladies and gentlemen. At noon the bridegroom arrived, preceded by three or four bands of nautch girls with their native music, followed by bands playing European music. The musicians were dressed in different coloured uniforms, one set being light blue, another dark blue, and a third green. With the girls singing, the bands playing, and the native drums and clarionets going all at the same time, the noise was deafening. Next came huge baskets and trays, covered with gold paper, containing sugarcane and fruits of various descriptions, cocoanuts, "pan, supari," vegetables, and spices. Then came valuable cloths, carried single file by 100 men. Next came another string of dancing girls, richly decked with jewels and singing, with native guitars and drums. The last named having taken up their places, the archway disclosed a grand old elephant with silver howdah, bearing the bridegroom, who was robed in silk and satin of pink and green. His head-dress bore an emblem representing royalty. Alighting from the elephant he walked into the 'durbar,' preceded by his best man and other officers, and took his seat on the raised dais erected at the end of the 'durbar hall. Bussapajeeurs next took the seat on the right of the bridegroom. Three Brahmin priests then offered prayers and performed certain rites. The bride was next brought from behind the 'purdah' and seated next to the bridegroom. She was dressed most gorgeously. The various ceremonies lasted three hours. At 3-30 the guests dispersed. The heat was almost insupportable, fans being in great demand. The European guests were garlanded before dispersing.

ACCORDING to a Russian military writer, General Plioutsinski, the bicycle is the ideal mount for mounted infantry, as the rapidity and continuity of its movements are not interfered with by the necessity of providing forage and water. It is, however, obvious that the experiment, to be conclusive, would have to be carried out on a far larger scale. According to this Russian authority the military cyclists ought to be able to travel at a rate of thirty to thirty-five versts an hour. The verst is 1,167 yards.

DEPARTURE OF THE TRANSPORT VICTORIA.

THE Indian Troop Service Transport Victoria, Captain W. D. G. Worcester, will sail to-day, for Southampton, with the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, from Ferozepore, and details, consisting of 54 officers, 23 ladies, and 30 children, 1,083 non-commissioned officers and men, 67 women, and 137 children. The troops from Deolali, with their baggage were brought to Bombay, in two troop trains. The first train, with 6 officers and 160 men, (including the usual working party and guard) the whole of the families and the heavy baggage arrived at the Sassoon Dock, at 6-5 a.m., yesterday morning. The second train conveying the Battalion Seaforth Highlanders and remainder of the details, left Deolali, at 10 p.m., last night, and will arrive at the Sassoon Dock, at 6-5 a.m., this morning. The troops and baggage will be embarked as they arrive. The following is the list of officers:—

Brig Surg Lieut Col and Mrs R Exham and 3 children, A M Staff

Lieut Col and Mrs J B Stewart, Seaforth Highlanders

Major and Mrs Y G Sparke, K O York, L I

Surg Maj E North, A M Staff.

Surg Maj and Mrs J M Jones and child A M Staff

Surg Maj and H L Batterby, and child, A M Staff

Major W de B Hatton, Seaforth Highlanders

Major and Mrs C C Townsend, and 2 children, R A

Surg Capt C W Reilly, A M Staff.

Surg Capt T Birt, A M Staff

Capt and Mr G R Rundle and child, R A

Surg Capt and Mrs H E Winter and child. A M Staff

Capt J Ruitherford Clarke, Seaforth High

Capt R de B Chichester, 2nd Border

Capt D Forbes Sempell, Seaforth High

Capt E A Cowan, Seaforth High

Capt G R Elliott, Seaforth High

Capt W D Bewsher, 1st Hampshire Regt

Lieut H E Cadell, R A

Lieut H S Woodcock, R A

Lieut F H Moline, East Surrey Regt

Lieut and Mrs J A Stewart and infant, I S Corps

Lieut C E Stewart, R A

Lieut and Mrs F C Samborne, I S Corps

Lieut R C Pierce, R I Fus

Lieut T Feather Stonhaugh, Seaforth High

Lieut W Anchincloss, 1st Cheshire

Lieut G Gillson, R H A

Lt-Qr-Mr & Mrs M Glynn, and 2 children, Seaforth High

Lieut A W M Brodie, Seaforth High

Lieut A R Bayly, R A

Lieut W C Hunter, 2nd Oxford L I

Lieut and Mrs J B Johnson, and 2 children, R E

Lieut D O Harvey, R M Fus

Lieut A N Hood, Manchester Regt

Lieut H L Holden, I S Corps

Lieut G H A White, R H A

Lieut C Henderson, 19th Hussars

Lieut J W O'Dowda, R W Kent Regt

Hon Lieut and Mrs H Jepson, and 2 children, Ord Dept

Hon Lieut C Powis, and 2 children, Mis List

Lieut P B Osborn, 2nd Oxford L I

Lieut A C B Alexander, Seaforth High

Lieut K W Arbuthnot, Seaforth High

Lieut B G Clay, 5th Dragoon Guards

Lieut M W H Lindsay, Seaforth High

Lieut C B Chamby, Seaforth High

Lieut C P Doy, Seaforth High

Lieut G T Brierly, R A

2nd Lieut R J Langden, York Lanc

2nd Lieut C J Thackwell, 18th Hussars

2nd Lieut F J Browne, R A

2nd Lieut J D G Walker, Rl High

2nd A E Greatwood, E Surrey Regt

Wife of Capt E S Williams, and 3 children, D C L I

Wife of Lieut McCormick, R E

Wife of Lieut E D Cameron, R H A

Wife of Capt A L Schreiber, and 2 children, R E

Wife of Capt C W Field, and 2 children, A J A Geal

Wife of Capt H Clowes, C C O

Wife of Capt H Anderson, D A C Genl,

Wife of Capt R M Betham, and infant, I S Corps

Wife of Lieut Waterman, and 2 children, 5th Lancers

THE MAHOMEDAN BURIAL-GROUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—I have recently visited the Mahomedan burial-ground in Queen's Road, and I must say that in my mind the assertion made in the petition of some Mahomedans against the closing of their burial-grounds, published a few days ago, that they plant trees and shrubs in their cemeteries savours rather of sophism for the only vegetation growing on or near the tombs is the Rose periwinkle (vincea rosea), a small ornamental garden plant. Some of the bodies seem to me to be buried on the surface almost; otherwise there was no reason for earthen mounds being made rectangular in shape and so high as some were. Other tombs, built of masonry, and erected on undulating ground, are in many instances toppling over. The burial-ground to my thinking is in a most insanitary state, and ought undoubtedly to be closed, not merely because of the present crisis, but because at all times it is liable to be a source of infection.—Yours, &c.,

R.

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONERSHIP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—The questionof the appointment ofthe Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Bombay will be discussed again at the meeting of the Corporation to be held to-morrow. It is a question of public importance, inasmuch as it involves an additional burden of Rs. 18,000, on the Municipal Exchequer every year. There is no denying that Mr. Snow is overworked, and that he needs an assistant. But the question is who should be that assistant, Mr. Du Boulay or Mr. W. R. Hamilton? At the last meeting of the Corporation our civic fathers acted wisely in listening to the counsel of Mr. Roughton who advised that it rested with them to appoint a Deputy Commissioner with the confirmation of Government, and that they could not delegate their authority in this behalf to the Munnicipal Commissioner as proposed by the Hon. Mr. Dharamsi. It is but right that the Corporators should give due weight to the opinion and wishes of the Commissioner in making the appointment, but they would doubtless expose themselves to a charge of dereliction of duty, if they appointed a man simply because he was selected by the Commissioner, and without giving a careful consideration to the relative merits of the two rival candidates. I sincerely hope the Corporators will dispassionately weigh the merits of the two candidates, and will select him whom they consider more fitted to serve the best interests of the Municipality without being influenced by the fantastic logic of this man or that.—Yours, &c.,

Dadur, Feb. 24. K. E. GHAMAT.

OVERCROWDED TRAINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—The authorities seem not to care for the complaints that the third-class carriages of the down Virar, which starts from Colaba at 5-40 p.m., and the up 8-45 a.m., are overcrowded. There are sometimes not less than 15 to 18 passengers in each compartment. I would suggest that there should be one train leaving Colaba at 5 p.m. to Virar, and one up from Virar at 9-30 a.m.—Yours, &c.,

Feb. 24. SOPARA.

BOMBAY RACES, 1897.

NEW RACE FOR THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY.

"Selling Race."—Rs. 500. A Selling Race for all 13-3 Arabs and C. Bs. and 13-2 other classes. Weight—Arabs and C. Bs. 13-3 and other classes 13-2 above heights entered to be sold for Rs. 1,500 to carry 10st. 5lbs., allowed for every Rs. 250 down to 500 W. I. Allowance—Maiden Galloways and Ponies landed since 1st August 1896 allowed 6 lbs. Distance ½ mile. Entrance Rs. 20 to be in the box at the Grand Stand by 8 a.m. on Thursday the 25th instant. General conditions of the Prospectus apply.

THIRD DAY—THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY.

1ST RACE—The Stewards' Purse, 3-30 p m
2ND RACE—The Bedouin Stakes, 3-55 p m
3RD RACE—The Zoroastrian Purse, 4-20 p m
4TH RACE—The Second Dealers Plate, 4-45 p m
5TH RACE—The Grand Stand Plate, 5-10 p m
6TH RACE—The Selling Race, 5-35 p m

TOM. LE MESURIER,
Honorary Secretary, W. I. T. Club.

THE German officers lent to China for the purpose if instructing the Mongolian warriors in the art of civilised warfare are to be recalled. The Kaiser is so disgusted at the manner in which they have been treated by the Chinese soldiers—one officer on one occasion only just managed to escape with his life—that he does not intend to let them stay the period agreed upon with the Chinese authorities, and an intimation to this effect is to be sent to China.

Truth writes:—The following letter has been addressed to me by a retired officer of the Indian Staff Corps. Although the writer does not intend it for publication, I think I cannot do better than leave it to speak for itself:—Sir,—I beg leave to suggest that you should remind the many Anglo-Indians now drawing their pensions in this country that their incomes are in great part provided by those millions of our Indian fellow-subjects who are now suffering from the famine. The pension charges which have to be borne by the Indian taxpayer are enormous. A great opportunity, therefore, presents itself to those for whose benefit this heavy tax is levied of showing their sympathy with the sufferings of the poorer class of Indian taxpayers. Although Mr. Hyndman's suggestion, that the home payments of the Indian Government should be temporarily suspended, has not commended itself to those concerned, I think there must be many Anglo Indians who will appreciate the argument of the above letter, and voluntarily remit some part at least of their drawings from India at the present crisis. It is scarcely necessary to point out that the Famine Relief Fund affords them a ready means of doing this.

MUNICIPAL STANDING COMMITTEE.

DR. BHALCHANDRA KRISHNA presided at the weekly meeting of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Corporation, held yesterday afternoon. There were also present: Mr. T. W. Cuffe, Professor C. V. Muller, Mr. K. M. Shroff, Dr. N. N. Katrak, Dr. Viegas, Messrs. R. H. Vincent and K. N. Kabraji, and the Hon. Mr. Dharamsi.

MR. MICHAEL'S SERVICES.

The Committee recorded letter to the Secretary, No. 24808, dated 19th instant, from the Commissioner, stating that Mr. L. W. Michael has been permanently appointed Third Assistant Assessor from the 10th idem.

Dr. Viegas echoed the sentiments of the chairman that during the seven years that he was their office manager Mr. Michael had done good and useful work.

Mr. Kabraji and the chairman agreed with Dr. Viegas. He eulogised Mr. Michael's labours in his late position, and considered he was deserving of his present promotion.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND THE PLAGUE.

The Commissioner reported that he had sanctioned the purchase from Messrs. Richardson and Cruddas of 5,200 wrought iron plugs of different sizes, at a total cost of Rs. 912-8-0, the same being required for disconnecting service pipes in various parts of the city in connection with the suppression of the bubonic plague.

The Commissioner also reported that as enquired by the Health Officer he had sanctioned the employment by the Health Officer of an additional temporary staff of sub-inspectors, trip-markers, clerks, muccadams, and hospital assistants from the month of January.

The Commissioner further reported that "a temporary staff has been employed to superintend the white-washing in Kamatipura and Nagpada from 24th December last, stating that the Executive Engineer proposes to allow Sub-Inspector J. F. Rebello an allowance of Rs. 15 per mensem, as while engaged on this work he will have to work for very long hours in plague-infected localities, and requesting sanction to this arrangement. The cost of the temporary establishment would be debited to the special grant for the suppression of bubonic plague."

The necessary sanction was given.

The Committee considered a letter from the Commissioner requesting sanction to the grant of Rs. 3,775 from surplus cash balance to meet excess in the Budget grant for current year, for cemeteries, Section 5, Stores, Firewood, caused by an exceptionally large number of bodies having been cremated at the Haines Road Cemetery during the last few months on account of the outbreak of bubonic plague.

The Hon. Mr. Dharamsi and Mr. K. M. Shroff were of opinion that the Committee must have some information before them as to how the firewood was delivered and what was the number of bodies burnt.

Mr. Dharamsi accordingly moved, and Mr. Shroff seconded, that the Commissioner be requested to furnish a return showing the number of bodies cremated during the ten months ending 31st December last and the number of bodies burnt during the months of January and February 1897.

The proposal was carried.

On the request of Dr. Chowksey, Medical Officer in charge of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Committee recommended the Corporation to sanction a further additional grant of Rs. 10,000 for the maintenance of the hospital.

The Municipal Commissioner reported that a number of patients were at present accommodated in the Parel Government House Hospital, which newly created institution was greatly relieving the Arthur Road Hospital. General Gatacre was furnished with Rs. 5,000 to cover the preliminary expenses, and the Commissioner asked sanction for the payment of the amount. The letter was forwarded to the Corporation with a recommendation for necessary sanction.

Dr. Viegas enquired if any steps were taken to disinfect railway carriages and coasting steamers in which plague cases were discovered on examination. The chairman said that the Municipality had no control over the subject. The question rested with Government as the examination was conducted outside the limit of the Bombay Municipality.

INOCULATION OF LYMPH.

The Commissioner forwarded a report from Dr. Haffkine giving the number of persons inoculated with his prophaclytic lymph. He said that 1,208 people, European and Native, of various communities, have got themselves inoculated. The report was recorded and forwarded to the Corporation.

The Municipal Commissioner suggested to the Committee to recommend the Corporation to apply to Government to raise a loan of Rs. 50,00,000 to be rapaid in five instalments of Rs. 10,00,000, to meet expenses in connection with the plague, and especially for the purposes of purchasing the insanitary buildings to be demolished.

The matter was adjourned until the next meeting.

TRIAL OF A ROYAL INDIAN MARINE OFFICER.

YESTERDAY, at the Government Dockyard, Fort, a Court Martial of Royal Indian Marine officers assembled, with the sanction of the Government of India, for the trial of Mr. Thomas Penny Barnaby, assistant engineer of the Royal Indian Marine vessel Mayo, on four several charges. The court was constituted as follows:—President: Captain P. J. Falle. Members: Commander G. Rose, Lieut. Wilson, Lieut. Beaumann, and Lieut. Windham. Colonel Prideaux officiated as Judge-Advocate; and Lieut. J. H. St. John as the Prosecutor.

The following charges were laid against the prisoner:—First charge, fraudulent conduct as an officer in that he, between the 13th October 1893 and the 3rd April 1894, on board the R. I. M. vessel Mayo, when entrusted as wine caterer with the money of the officers' mess of the Mayo, fraudulently misappropriated to his own use the sum of Rs. 203-8-0, which it was his duty to have paid to Messrs. Cutler, Palmer and Co., which sum he entered in the mess accounts, signed by him, as paid, but which had not been paid. Second charge, fraudulent conduct as an officer in that he, between the 13th October 1893 and 3rd January 1894, on board the R. I. M. vessel Mayo, when entrusted as wine caterer with the money of the officers' mess of the Mayo, fraudulently misappropriated to his own use the sum of Rs. 37-8-0, which it was his duty to have paid to Messrs. Rogers and Co., which he entered in the mess accounts, signed by him, as paid, but which had not been paid. Third charge, neglect to the prejudice of good order and discipline in that, he between the October 13th 1893 and the 4th January 1894, on board the Mayo, when in his office of mess caterer to the officers' mess of the Mayo, he was charged with keeping the accounts of the officers' mess, so negligently discharged his duties as to enter the liabilities of the mess in the quarterly statement dated 4th January 1894, for which he was responsible, and which was signed by him as Rs. 1,103-8-0, whereas they were in reality Rs. 1,544-12-9. Fourth charge, neglect to the prejudice of good order and discipline in that he, between the 4th January 1894 and the the 3rd April 1894, when, in his office of wine caterer of the Mayo, he was charged with keeping the accounts of the officers' mess, so negligently discharged his duties as to enter the liabilities of the officers' mess in the quarterly statement dated 3rd April 1894, for which he was responsible, and which was signed by him as Rs 1,175-0-0, whereas they were in reality Rs. 1,757-13-5.

Several witnesses were called by the prosecutor, among whom were the accountants of Messrs. Cutler, Palmer and Co., and Messrs. Rogers and Co., to support the charges mentioned above. Most of the evidence was confined to accounts, and was of no general interest.

The case for the prosecution having closed, the Judge-Advocate asked the prisoner if he would make his statement of defence first and then call his witnesses, or call the witnesses first and make his defence at the close of evidence.

The prisoner choose the latter course, and called Mr. Holland, who had acted for prisoner as mess carterer during his absence. He was examined as to the way the mess accounts were generally kept, and as to the course of the business entrusted to the mess carterer.

The court then adjourned.

THE scheme of reforms to be applied in Cuba will be submitted to the Council of State almost immediately. According to a telegram from Havana, General Weyler has declared that if the Government were to consult him on the introduction of reforms, his answer would be that if reforms were to be conceded, they should be applied in the widest possible manner. Another despatch states hat "Spaniards express the greatest indignation at General Weyler's methods of conducting military operations. In the provinces of Havana and Matanzas the Spanish commanders have orders, without respect of owners, to destroy all property which might afford food and shelter to the rebels. These orders are now being executed to the letter. Loyal Spaniards whose property is suffering destruction cannot see the justification of these extremely arbitrary measures."

THE poems which the three Academicians, MM François Coppee, Sully-Prudhomme, and de Heredia, wrote in honour of the Czar and Czarina's visit to Paris, were much appreciated by the Empress. They were sent to Russia, but, to the surprise of the writers, they have been returned by the Russian censor, the parcels bearing the words, "Return Forbidden." This is not all, M. Henry Lapanze has written a book, "From Paris to the Volga.' The work was entirely sympatetic towards France's friends; indeed, the Russian authorities themselves furnished documents which formed the basis of several chapters. This Book, too, has been banned. French literary men are wondering what it all means.

BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE DEPUTY MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERSHIP.

THREE BILLS CARRIED INTO W.

THE Council met at the Secretariat, ysterday at 11 a.m: His Excellency the Right Honourable Lord Sandhurst, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay, presiding; the Honourable Mr. H. Birdwood, C.S.I., M.A., LL.D., I.C.S.; the Honourable Mr. John Nugent, C.S.I., I.C.S.; the Honourable the Advocate-General; the Honourable Messrs. Bal Gangadhar Tilak; Daji Abaji Khare; A. T. Shuttleworth; J. K. Spence, I.C.S.; T. R. McLellan; T. B. Kirkham; Navroji Nasarvanji Wadia, C.I.E.; Javerilal Umiashankar Yajnik; Abdalla Meheralli Dharamsi, BA., LL.B.; W. H. Crowe, I.C.S.; T. D. Mackenzie, I.C.S.; J. Monteath, I.C.S.; H. M. Thompson, M.Inst. C.E.; and A. Abercrombie.

THE CLOSING OF A PUBLIC GATE AT AHMEDABAD.

In reply to the Hon. Mr. Javerilal, for the Hon. Mr. Chimanlal Harilal Setalvad, the Honourable Mr. Birdwood said: That copies of the official papers relating to the refusal of the Collector of Ahmedabad to allow the Municipality to open the Baradari gate in the Bhadar at Ahmedabad had been laid on the table, together with a copy of the Commissioner's decision on appeal. In view of the Commissioner's decision no further directions on the part of Government were necessary.

KHANDESH TODDY AGAIN.

Mr. Javerilal, for Mr. Setalvad, asked: Now that the Central Distillery system is held to have been well established in the Khandesh District, what are the reasons that induce Government not to issue licenses for the sale of toddy in that district as was done before the introduction of the Central Distillery system and restrict the licenses for tapping of toddy trees to their owners and that also for domestic consumption only? Will Government be pleased in view of the present scarcity to make toddy available to the poor masses, at least temporarily, by freely issuing licenses for the tapping and sale of toddy in this as well as other districts?

The Honourable Mr. Nugent replied: This is the eighth occasion on which a question on this subject has been put by the honourable member. Government have already fully explained the reasons for the policy adopted by them in this matter, and they have nothing now to add. Government do not consider that a free supply of intoxicating liquor would be beneficial to the poor masses in a time of scarcity or at any other time, and are therefore unable to adopt the suggestion of the honourable member.

AGENCY COURTS.

Mr. Javerilal, for Mr. Setalvad, asked: Will Government be pleased to lay on the Council table the information, if now received, that was asked for about Agency Courts by my question No. 8 at the meeting of the 15th January 1896 as promised in the answer to that question?

His Excellency the President replied: The statement is laid on the table. It is confined to cases cognizable by Political officers and by Government in virtue of powers directly conferred by the legislature. It excludes cases dealt with under the executive authority of the Paramount Power or by political usage or delegation.

ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT BY THE POLICE.

Mr. Javerilal, for Mr. Setalvad, asked: What orders have Government passed about the alleged severe ill-treatment by the police in the case of Empress *vs.* Lakhman Gauda, referred to in my question No. 3 at the meeting of 17th August last? What are the salary, standing and grade of the Police officers who conducted the actual investigation of the case and who were responsible for the alleged ill-treatment?

Mr. Birdwood replied: Government have caused a searching enquiry to be made into the facts and are satisfied that the charges of torture brought by the accused against the Police are not proved, and cannot be substantiated. In these circumstances the second part of the question does not admit of any answer.

A QUESTION OF LAW.

Mr. Javerilal, for Mr. Setalvad, asked: Are Government aware that the condition about residence laid down in rule 3 (1) of the rules for admission to the Provincial Service is so far as the Judicial branch of the Service is concerned, in contravention of the spirit of section 22 of the Bombay Civil Courts Act XIV of 1869, as amended by Bombay Act III of 1895, which makes subjects of all Native States in India, under the suzerainty of Her Majesty, eligible for judicial appointments, and will Government be pleased to modify the above rule in that particular?

Mr. Birdwood replied: Government do not consider that the condition about residence in the rule quoted is opposed to the provisions of the Acts referred to. They do not propose to alter the rule.

AN OLD RELIEF FUND.

Mr. Javerilal for Mr. Setalvad, asked: What is the total amount at present of the Ahmedabad Relief Fund with accretion of interest, &c., raised at the time of the flood of 1875 in Ahmedabad as well as subsequently on other occasions and with whom are the said funds now lying? What is the constitution of the committee, if any, under whose control the funds are placed? Who are the present members thereof and by whom are they appointed? Is the Interest of these funds or any part of it at present expended, and if so, on what objects?

Mr. Nugent replied: The total amount of the Ahmedabad Relief Fund is reported to be Rs. 1,09,012. Of this sum Rs. 99,400 are invested in Government securities, which are in the custody of the Accountant General. The Committee under whose control the funds are placed consists of—The Collector as President. Rao Bahadur Lalshankar Umiashankar. The Honourable Rao Bahadur Ranchodlal Chhotalal, C.I.E. Seth Umabhoy Hathesing. In the event of a vacancy occurring the remaining members appoint to it. A scheme for vesting the Fund in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments has been proposed and is under considetarion. Out of the interest of the fund Rs. 1,000 are annually appropriated for the maintenance of the Victoria Jubilee Dispensary and Rs. 200 for the maintenance of the Ranchhodlal Dispensary.

SIR CHARLES OLLIVANT'S APPOINTMENT.

Mr. Javerilal, for Mr. Setalvad, asked: What arrangements do Government propose to make about the disposal of judicial appeals, &c., coming up for the decision of Government after the retirement of the Honourable Mr. Birdwood?

His Excellency the President replied: They will be disposed of by the Governor-in-Council.

SUSPENSIONS OF REVENUE.

In reply to Mr. Javerilal 'for Mr. Setalvad' Mr. Nugent said: Government have issued instructions with regard to the suspension of land revenue in districts affected by famine and copies of the orders are laid on the table. The honourable member will observe that the directions of the Collector of Poona are not to the effect stated; that definite instructions are given only as regards the classes of people to whom notices should be issued, and subsequent measures depend on the circumstances of defaulters; and that Government have approved of the instructions of the Collector of Poona and have directed that the same course should be followed in all the affected districts and also in Thana, Kolaba and Ratnagiri.

The direction of the Collector of Poona referred to in the answer were as follows:—(1) on the expiry of the 10 days' grace usually allowed from the date on which an instalment falls due notices shall issue to—(a) all non-agriculturist occupants and all non-agriculturists directly interested as mortgagees or otherwise in land, whatever the outturn of the land may be; (b) all agriculturist occupants whom the Mamlatdar knows or has good reason to believe to be—(i) either well-to-do (that is to say, possessed of sufficient means to be able to pay without undue difficulty), whatever the outturn of his fields may be; (ii) or occupants, who are not well-to-do, of fields which have yielded a crop of four annas or over; (c) all agriculturist mortgagees and others interested directly in lands in the occupancy of Class (b); (2) notices shall not issue to agriculturist occupants or mortgagees, &c., who have both of the following qualifications:—(i) not well-to-do, (ii) crops have not reached four annas.

THE HEAD MASTERSHIP OF SCHOOLS.

In reply to Mr. Javerilal 'for Mr. Setalvad', his Excellency the President said: The honourable member is under a misapprehension in supposing that this Government recommended the inclusion of the Headmastership of the Surat High School in the Subordinate Service. I invite his attention to paragraph 7 of the Government of India's Resolution No. 4-Education—204-215, dated the 23rd July 1896, from which it will be seen that this Government recommended all Headmasterships except the three included in the Indian Educational Service, should be placed in the Provincial Service. Although the Headmasterships of the Poona and Belgaum High Schools are included in the three appointments referred to, it is not to be understood that European Head Masters will always be appointed to the two schools named. While ordinarily the Headmasterships of the Elphinstone and the Poona or Ahmedabad High Schools will be held by Europeans, Government have reserved to themselves the power to appoint the third European Headmaster to the school where, in their opinion, his services will be of most use. It is true that Headmasterships of the High Schools named have been held in the past to the satisfaction of Government by gentlemen appointed in India. It was considered desirable to have a European element in the staff of Headmasters, and after careful consideration the number of Headmasters to be recruited in England was fixed at three. The honourable member will see from paragraph 13 of the Government of India resolution referred to that in the Punjab also one Headmastership is included in the Indian Educational Service. There are 18 schools of the class named in Bombay and 6 in Poona. They were inspected by Educational Inspectors, Central Division and North-East Division, up to the end of 1886-87 and since then the Inspectors of the three Divisions have shared all the inspecting work in Bombay. In 1895-96 the Educational Inspector, Central Division, spent 52 days in Bombay, the Educational Inspector Northern Division, 30 days and the Educational Inspector, Southern Division 25 days. The last named officer has always done his work to the satisfaction of Government. He has sometimes to inspect a European School but the practice is to give him the English School for natives and to leave the European Schools to the other two Inspectors. Government considered it desirable that the three Inspectors in the Presidency should continue to share the work of inspecting the schools in the Presidency Town, and that the European schools both there and in Poona should be inspected by officers trained in England and with a knowledge of the standard of discipline and teaching maintained there. The backward state of education in Sind and the fact that the Inspector was so far removed from the Director's personal supervision were considered to be reasons for the employement in that Province of an Inspector trained in England.

THE CLERK OF THE INSOLVENCY COURT.

Mr. Javerilal for Mr. Setalvad asked: What is the result of the communication that this Government had with the Government of India about the question of giving early effect to the recommendation made by the Finance Committee in 1886 to put the Clerk of the Insolvency Court on a salary of Rs. 500 or 600 a month and credit all fees in excess of that sum to Government?

Mr. Birdwood replied: The subject is still under discusion with the Government of India.

THE TRIAL OF PROFESSOR SATHE.

Mr. Javerilal for Mr. Setalvad asked: Is it true that Professor Sathe of the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha was arrested on a warrant and charged before the Magistrate at Pen with offences under section 117 of the Indian Penal Code, section 43 of the Abkari Act and section 25 of the Forest Act; and that at the trial on the 11th of January the examination-in-chief of the witnesses for the prosecution disclosing no offence the Magistrate discharged Professor Sathe? Who were the Police officers who proceeded against Professor Sathe and on what information did they act? What are their salaries, standing and grade? Who was the Magistrate who granted the arrant of arrest and on what information did he act? Will Government be pleased to enquire into the circumstances connected with this prosecution?

Mr. Birdwood replied Government are not at present in a position to answer the question of the honourable member. A report has been called for.

Answering a question on the same subject from Mr. Javerilal, Mr. Birdwood said: The prosecutions in question were undertaken without the previous sanction of Government. It is not usual for the Executive Government to make orders limiting powers vested in Magistrates by law.

A FAMINE INCIDENT AT SHOLAPUR.

Mr. Javerilal asked: Whether it is true that the District Superintendent of Police at Sholapur withdrew, against the wishes of Mr. Deshmukh, the Collector, the Police force kept to guard the grain bazaars, for the purpose of furnishing an escort to some prisoners from Bijapur; and that this circumstance had some indirect influence in bringing about the grain riots at Sholapur?

Mr. Birdwood replied: It is true that the constitution of the guard referred to was altered without the knowledge of the District Magistrate and that he had given orders some time previously as to the maintenance of an armed guard in the bazaar for the time being. The Chief Constable in charge of the City relieved the armed guard in accordance with the usual routine in such matters, in order to comply with a demand for an escort for certain prisoners to Bijapur and replaced it by an equal force of unarmed police. The District Superintendent of Police was absent from Sholapur at the time. Government do not consider that the removal of the armed guard had any influence in bringing about the grain riots at Sholapur.

THE TRANSFERENCE OF THE SHOLAPUR COLLECTOR.

Mr. Javerilal asked: Has it been brought to the notice of Government that the order, removing Mr. Deshmukh from Sholapur to be First Assistant Collector in Kanara, has been received by all classes of people in Sholapur as a slur on a deserving officer, who had done excellent service as Collector of Sholapur during the present famine?

Mr. Nugent replied: Three telegrams and a petition on the subject of the removal of Mr. Deshmukh from the post of Collector of Sholapur have been received by Government, but there is no evidence that the feeling of all classes of people in Sholapur is as stated by the honourable member. The responsibility of estimating the merits of their servants and their fitness for particular posts rests entirely on Government and appointments are made under a full sense of that responsibility.

THE FAMINE CODE.

Mr. Javerilal asked: Have Government taken steps to provide the public and subordinate officials in the affected districts with copies of translations into vernaculars of the revised Famine Code?

Mr. Nugent replied: The Code has been translated into the vernaculars of the Presidency proper and the translations, which are being printed, will be distributed for the use of subordinate officials. Copies will be procurable by the public at the Government Book Depot.

ROAD METAL BREAKING ON RELIEF WORKS.

Mr. Javerilal asked is it a fact that most of the relief works now on hand provide for the breaking of metal for road repairs? If so, is this due to want of readiness on the part of the Public Works Department to furnish plans and estimates for really useful works, such as those for the improvement of the water-supply or communications?

Mr. Nugent replied: A large proportion of the famine labourers are employed on the breaking of metal. This fact is not due to want of readiness on the part of the Public Works Department to furnish plans and estimates for other works. This form of employment is in many respects best adapted for famine labour, especially in the early stages of the famine, and is calculated to be more useful than other expenditure on communications which cannot subsequently be maintained, or than expenditure on such projects for improvement of the water-supply as are not found on professional examination to be sound. But it is recognized that the breaking of metal will not be profitable if carried beyond reasonable requirements, and arrangements are being made for the employment of famine labourers on the earth work of railways and on irrigation work which, although they are not likely to be financially profitable, will probably be of advantage to the community.

Mr. Nugent subsequently stated: Small tanks and wells are not suitable for the employment of famine labour to any large extent, because supervision is not available for small parties of workers scattered over the country. But everything that is possible is being done for the temporary improvement of the water supply in the affected districts and people in need of relief are employed for that purpose.

UNFINISHED RELIEF WORKS.

In reply to another question by Mr. Javerilal, Mr. Nugent said: It is believed that none of the tanks and roads undertaken during the last famine and left unfinished were abandoned on account of want of funds; such as were not finished were abandoned because it was found that it would not be profitable to complete them.

TAKAVI ADVANCES.

In reply to Mr. Javerilal, Mr. Nugent said: The amounts which have been specially assigned to the several affected districts in connection with the famine for takavi advances are as follows:—

	Rs.
Ahmednagar	4,75,000
Khandesh	92,000
Sholapur	2,00,650
Naisk	75,000
Satara	2,25,000
Poona	1,25,000
Bijapur	8,30,000
Dharwar	1,00,000
Belgaum	2,50,000
Additional sum for distribution in Southern Division	25,000
Total	Rs. 23,97,650

Detailed information as to the sums advanced in each taluka of any affected district is not available. The local inquiries made on receipt of applications, which are very numerous, are not yet completed and therefore the informatien on other points asked for by the Honourable Member is not yet available.

FURTHER INFORMATION WANTED ON THE FAMINE.

Mr. Javerilal asked: Will Government be pleased to direct that the weekly summaries they publish for general information shall include information on the following points:—(1) criminal statistics relating to offences against property, (2) execution of decrees, (3) registration, (4) attendance at schools.

Mr. Nugent replied: Government are unable to see that any purpose of public utility would be served by requiring from officers whose time is already very fully occupied weekly returns on the points specified by the honourable member, and cannot therefore comply with his request.

Mr. Khare asked: Will Government be pleased to give a table of all the places at which relief works have been opened since October last, showing the dates of opening and the times when sheds were provided at particular places?

Mr. Nugent replied: The honourable member is referred to the summaries of information published weekly in the *Government Gazette*; Government regret that they must decline to add to the labours of officers already fully employed by requiring from them detailed statements which, so far as the Governor in Council can judge, can be of no practical use.

A similar answer was given to a question of the same kind put by Mr. Tilak.

GRAIN COMPENSATION.

In reply to Mr. Javerilal, Mr. Nugent said: Provisions regarding a scale of grain compensation were omitted from the revised Famine Relief Code by direction of the Government of India, whose policy is not open to question in this Council. Government are not aware that the scale of the Civil

Account Code, which, so far as it goes and so far as any Government servants are now affected, is the same as that prescribed in the Famine Relief Code of 1885, is indequate, nor has any representation to that effect at any time when the Civil Account rule has been applied been made by any person affected.

THE PROVINCIAL CONTRACT.

Mr. Javerilal asked: Are Government in a position to place before the Council information regarding the terms on which the new Provincial Contract for the next five years are likely to be settled?

Mr. Nugent stated: The reply to the honorable member's question is in the negative.

Answering a question on the same subject from Mr. Tilak, Mr. Nugent said: The revision of the Provincial Contract is still under correspondence with the Government of India, and it would be contrary to rule and practise to publish any information on the subject of it.

THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

The Hon. Mr. Khare, for the Hon. Mr. P. M. Mehta, inquired: In asking the Municipal Corporation of Bombay to appoint a Deputy Commissioner are Government aware that the Corporation have never been asked by the Municipal Commissioner to do so? Have Government ascertained the views of the Municipal Commissioner on the subject and will they be pleased to state what they are?

His Excellency the President replied: Government are aware that the Municipal Corporation had not been asked by the Municipal Commissioner to appoint a Deputy Commissioner. Relations between Government and the Municipal Commissioner at this crisis have naturally been of a most intimate nature. His views as to the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner were ascertained. The Municipal Commissioner considered that a Deputy Commissioner would be of most valuable assistance, provided the Municipal Act were amended in the manner prososed in the Bill to be introduced to-day.

A LIQUOR SHOP AT MATHERAN.

In answer to Mr. Khare, for Mr. Mehta, Mr. Nugent said: Government have ascertained that a country liquor shop was in July last allowed to be established in Matheran in consequence of representations that it was urgently required to satisfy a legitimate demand and to remove an inducement to illicit consumption. The sanction was given on condition that the Collector satisfied himself that house-owners and residents were not likely to raise objections, and it may be inferred that the usual measures were taken to ascertain the opinion of the residents. The Superintendent of Matheran approved of the opening of the shop.

RELIEF WAGES.

Mr. Khare, for Mr. Mehta, asked: (a) Is it true that in working at stone-breaking, the wages earned are generally of the lowest of the standards? (b) Is it true that the average wage earned, though it may be sufficient to sustain life for the moment, is not sufficient to sustain strength and vitality for any length of time?

Mr. Nugent replied: (a) On all classes of relief works the bulk of the labourers earn wages of the intermediate standards; but it is not true that in working at stone-breaking the wages earned are generally of the lowest standard. (b) The reports received from medical and other officers show that such is not the case.

Mr. Khare, for Mr. Mehta, also asked: (a) Is it not true that the work of stone-breaking is not suited to the people of the weaver class and that they are unable to earn on such work any except the lowest wages? (b) For how many of this class has work been provided at home?

Mr. Nugent replied: (a) The suitability of a particular kind of work for a particular class of people is a matter of degree and one about which opinions may differ; Government have expressed the view that earthwork is more suitable for weavers than stone-breaking, and have directed that people of that class should be employed on earthwork as far as practicable. But the State is under no obligation to provide people with the kind of employment which suits them best, and able-bodied persons will be relieved only on the condition of their doing such work as is available for them. It is not true that weavers are unable to earn on stone-breaking any except the lowest wages. (b). The numbers vary from week to week and are not regularly reported from all the affected districts. The honourable member will find such information on the point as is supplied to Government in the summaries published weekly in the *Government Gazette*.

DR. HUNTER'S COMMISSION.

Mr. Khare, for Mr. Mehta asked: Will Government be pleased to state what was the cost of Dr. Hunter's Bombay Drainage Commission appointed by the Government of Sir Richard Temple, and who defrayed it?

Mr. Birdwood replied: The information required been has called for.

THE LOW SALARIES OF TEACHERS.

Mr. Tilak asked: Is Government aware of the fact that low-paid teachers in the Vernacular Schools in the affected districts have not yet received any compensation for the dearness of grain on the ground that there is no balance to meet the charge from the portion of the Local Fund assigned to education? Will Government be pleased to direct that such extra expenditure should be met from the general balance, if any, or from the portion of the Local Funds usually devoted to Public Works and debited to Famine Relief?

His Excellency the President replied: It is for Local Boards to decide whether they should give grain compensation to their own employes. Government do not contemplate issuing any such order as is suggested by the honourable member.

SUSPENSION OF REVENUE TO SUPERIOR HOLDERS.

Mr. Tilak asked: Will Government be pleased to place on the table the reports of the revenue officers giving the results of their crop inspection preliminary to give relief by way of suspension or remission of land revenue under the Famine Code?

Mr. Nugent replied: Government are unable to comply with the request.

In answer to the same member, Mr. Nugent said,: Government have no intention of granting any general suspension of land revenue to superior holders with directions to pass them on to their tenants. The rule recommended by the Famine Commission and now generally accepted is that nobody should be forced in a season of extraordinary drought to borrow in order to pay the land revenue, but that all who can pay it without borrowing should do so. This rule applies to superior holders as well as to occupants who themselves cultivate their lands, and under it the former are not entitled to suspension unless they suspend the collection of rents from their tenants and also have no other means without borrowing of paying what is due to the State. Petitions, almost all of them being from district which are not affected by famine, have been received from persons purporting to be cultivators and land owners and rayats, some or all of whom may be superior holders. Most of these petitions violated the rules regarding petitions and were returned. To one which purports to have been adopted at a public meeting held at Panwel the following reply was sent:—"Government decline to take into consideration representations purporting to come from associations of people on the subject of such concessions. Persons who cannot without difficulty pay what is due by them to the State or who can show equitable grounds for a remission are at liberty to apply individually to local officers and to appeal under the rules to controlling authorities, and such petitions will be dealt with in accordance with the rules and not otherwise. People who have ample means of discharging their debts to the State, which are not less morally or legally binding than debts to private individuals, are not entitled to combine with others for the purpose of attempting to obtain concessions, and Government will give no recognition to such combinations.

ARRESTING THE WRONG MAN.

Mr. Tilak asked:—Has Government noticed that Babu Satyacharan Shastri, a respectable Bengali author, while travelling by the Sobthern Maratha Railway in November last, was detained in custody by the Railway Police at Koregaon Station without any warrant? If an enquiry has been made will Government be pleased to publish the result, and if not to order an enquiry into the matter?

Mr. Birdwood replied: Yes. The Head Constable at Koregaon acted on a telegram received by him from the Assistant Station Master, Satara Road, indicating a certain passenger in a particular carriage as one of the persons implicated in a case of cheating the Railway by obtaining delivery of a parcel on a forged receipt. The Assistant Station Master had of course made a mistake while the Head Constable who had lately joined at Koregaon knew nothing about the case, and was informed by the telegram that a warrant had issued. The Head Constable has been severely reprimanded and the action of the Assistant Station Master has been brought to the notice of the authorities of the Southern Maratha Railway with a request that they will deal strictly with him for his inexcusable mistake.

THE CARRIAGE OF THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS.

Mr. Khare asked:—Are Government aware that a large number of third class passengers to and from Nasik are being carried by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in A class goods wagons?

Mr. Nugent replied: Government has no information on the subject. Railway administrations may use goods stock for the conveyance of passengers, provided it is done in accordance with rules framed to satisfy the conditions laid down by the Governmsnt of India in that behalf.

PRISONERS' RATIONS.

In reply to Mr. Khare, Mr. Nugent said: (a) The statement laid on the table shows the quantities of food of various kinds allowed daily to a male native prisoner undergoing rigorous imprisonment, which vary with the kind of labour exacted. (b) The amount of money paid as wages to an adult male working on relief works depends on the price of grain and the task performed. The honourable member will find a scale in Appendix V to the Famine Relief Code. The money paid as wages to an able-bodied male of the class of professional labourers is sufficient to purchase the same quantity of grain as is allowed for an adult male employed on hard labour, together with dal, salt, ghee, condiments and vegetables. The wages also cover the cost of fuel, which however is often obtained free.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

In reply to Mr. Khare, his Excellency the President said: The invitation to the Educational Conference at Poona was a general one and included all non-official educationists in the Central Division. There was no principle of selection as all were invited. The circular of invitation was addressed to the three Bombay daily newspapers and to all colleges and aided and unaided schools in the City of Bombay and other places outside Poona whose addresses could be found.

CLOSING OF A SCHOOL AT SURAT.

In reply to Mr. Khare, his Excellency the President said: The Municipal Board opened an Anglo-Vernacular School for girls with the consent of the educational authorities and closed it after a short time with the consent of the department. I refer the honourable member to the correspondence laid on the Council table.

INSPECTION OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

Mr. Khare asked: Is it a fact that some passengers, who were taken out of the trains at Kalyan on suspicion that they were suffering from the plague and taken to the Municipal hospital there on the 12th instant, were left there without proper nourishment and medical attendance for a whole night and a part of the next day?

Mr. Birdwood replied: Enquiries have been made, and it does not appear to be the fact.

THE BILL RELATING TO THE DEPUTY MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERSHIP.

Before moving the first reading of the Bill to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act, Mr. Birdwood said:—Your Excellency,—The Bill to further amend the law relating to the Municipal government of the City of Bombay was published in the *Government Gazette*, by order of your Excellency, on the 16th instant. Such publication is deemed to be the introduction of the Bill under Rule 22 of the Amended Rules of the Council. Under Rule 23, the Bill cannot be read a first time till fifteen clear days after its introduction and fifteen clear days after copies of it have been despatched to members. As that period has not elapsed since the publication of the Bill and the despatch of copies to hon. members, and as the Bill is of an urgent nature, as I propose to explain presently, I ask your Excellency to exercise the power conferred on the President of this Council by Rule 49, and to suspend Rule 23, in order to enable me to move the first reading.

H. E. the President then suspended Rule 23. Mr. Birdwood, in moving the first reading of the Bill, said:—Your Excellency,—In now moving the first reading of the Bill to further amend the law relating to the Municipal government of the City of Bombay I would desire to explain that the object of it is to confer a very necessary power on the Deputy Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay on those occasions when the Corporation finds it expedient to appoint a Deputy Commissioner. The provisions of the City of Bombay Municipal Act of 1888 relating to the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner are contained in Sections 55 and 56 of the Act and in certain other sections to which it is unnecessary for me to refer. Under Section 55 the Corporation is empowered, at any time and from time to time, to appoint, subject to confirmation by the Governor in Council, a person to be a Deputy Municipal Commissoner, if it shall appear to it expedient so to do. Every person so appointed is subject to the same liabilities, restrictions and conditions to which the Commissioner is subject. Section 56 then provides that the Deputy Commissioner shall be subordinate to the Commissioner and shall exercise, subject to the Commissioner's orders, such of the powers and perform such of the duties of the Commissioner as the Commissioner shall, from time to time, depute to him. The section contains, however, a proviso that it shall not be lawful for a Deputy Commissioner to appear in the Commissioner's stead at any meeting of the Corporation or Standing Committee or to exercise thereat any right or power of the Commissioner. Now Hon'ble members of the Council are probably aware that the Standing Committee meets every Wednesday. These meetings last on an average about 1½ hours. The Commissioner is not bound by law to attend these meetings: but in practice it is found necessary that he should do so. Otherwise the business of the Municipality might often come to a standstill. The meetings of the Corporation are generally fixed for the 4th or 5th of each month, and there is generally a long Agenda paper to be worked through. In practice the business fixed for the meeting cannot be finished at a single sitting, and the rule is to hold meetings on Mondays and Thursdays in each week till the Agenda paper is worked off. The adjourned meetings are generally continued till the 25th of the month; and each meeting lasts two hours. Now the tendency of Municipal business is to increase in all departments; and the Commissioner is not only required to be present at each meeting of the Corporation and each adjourned meeting, but it is necessary for him to read all the correspondence relating to each subject to be disposed of, in order to acquire a complete mastery of all its details and be able to speak on the subject, if necessary, or furnish any information that may be called for by members of the Corporation. The necessity of preparing himself for the meetings and for attending them makes serious inroads on the Commissioner's time, which would often be better spent inother ways. At present, the Commissioner has little leisure for various important duties of inspection and it is necessary that he should obtain such effective relief as the present Bill will afford him. If the Deputy Commissioner be empowered to attend meetings, then, not only in such times of stress and strain as the present but at all times when the pressure of business in the Commissioner's office makes it necessary for the Corporation to appoint a Deputy, he will be able to give the Commissioner such effectual relief as is desired. The proposed Bill is, therefore, of special importance and especially at the present time. I therefore move the first reading of the Bill.

The motion was carried, and H. E. the President then suspended the rules generally. Mr. Birdwood then moved that the Bill be read a second time without reference to a Select Committee.

AN IMPORTANT AMENDMENT.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Dharamsi moved the following amendment: That for section 1 of the Bill the following be substituted:—(1) The words "except as hereinafter provided" shall be inserted between the letter (a) and the word "it" in the 2nd line of sub-section. (2) Clause (a) of section 56 of the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888; and that (2) the following proviso be added after clause (a) of sub-section (2) of the said section "provided further that it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council upon the representation of the Corporation to declare by notification in the *Bombay Government Gazette* that the operation of sub-section (2) clause (a) hereof shall be suspended for any period to be specified in such notification." In moving the amendment Mr. Dharamsi said The clause proposed to be repealded by the Bill was specially inserted by the Legislature in section 56 of the Act after careful consideration, and it is extremely desirable that it should be retained and at the same time power should be taken to suspend its operation whenever occasion required. No doubt the present time is critical and it is necessary that complete and extensive relief should be given to the Commissioner that is really the object of the Bill because it is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that "the heavy duties *now* devolving on the Municipal Commissioner in consequence of the outbreak of bubonic plague in Bombay and the extreme urgency of the measures he is required to organize and carry out show that in circumstances of such pressure the relief granted to him by the appointment of a Deputy Municipal Commissioner should be as complete as possible." It seems to me that to attain this object it is not necessary to make such a sweeping change in the law as is proposed. If the Act is altered as proposed by the Hon'ble mover of the Bill the alteration will take effect not only for the purposes of present emergency but would continue in force always in the future that was not required. Although the appointment of the Deputy Commissioner will be temporary at present it may become necessary in future to have a permanent Deputy Commissioner. If that event happens the permanent Deputy Commissioner will have the power of attending meetings of the Corporation and Standing Committee and that being as it is not difficult to imagine that some Commissioners may delegate to his Deputy the task of attending these meetings and absent himself therefrom. The Commissioner is the Chief executive officer of the Municipality and as such responsible to the Corporation for the proper management of the affairs of the city. He must be present at all meetings of the Corporation to guide them in important matters and to be in touch with their views on the various questions that come up for their decision. The appointment of a Deputy would in ordinary times relieve the Commissioner of a good deal of routine work as well as outdoor work, and surely it cannot be said that in ordinary times the Commissioner would not find sufficient time to attend the meetings of the Corporation and Standing Committee. There is a feeling in the Corporation that the Bill as proposed is not the best way of dealing with the question. The appointment of a Deputy Commissioner is left to the Corporation and they can be safely trusted to represent the Government whenever necessary that the operation of sub-section 2 clause (a) should be suspended. The Governor-in-Council would only have to publish a notification in the *Gazette* and that would at once give power to the Deputy Commissioner to represent the Commissioner at the meetings of the Corporation and Standing Committee. I consider that the views entertained by the Corporation to which I have now given expression ought to have due weight. I hope that Government will accept the amendment I have proposed. In principle there is no difference. The object which Government has in view is to afford complete relief to the Commissioner in times of emergencies. My amendment will carry out that object equally well. The only difference is that whereas under the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Birdwood it is practically sought to give power to the Commissioner to authorize his Deputy to attend meetings under my amendment that power will be given to the Corporation. The Hon'ble Mr. Birdwood has stated that the Municipal Commissioner has suggested legislation in the present form, but I have reason to believe that Mr. Snow required relief at present not because of abnormal increase in his ordinary work but because he is required to do a great deal of outdoor work. Mr. Snow no doubt has done his best to discharge the multifarious duties that have devolved upon him owing to the present emergency, but it is to be hoped that a crisis like the present will be the first and last of its kind. For ordinary times legislation in the form proposed is not necessary and those conversant with the practical working of the Corporation will appreciate my remarks that it is not desirable or advisable to give powers to the Commissioner to absent himself from the meetings by sending in his place his Deputy. I again express a hope that Government willd see their way to accept my amendment.

The Hon. Mr. Javerilal said: I quite see the necessity of giving relief to the Municipal Commissioner during the prevalence of the bubonic fever in Bombay. I do not think that any objection will be raised to the provision, but at the same time I agree with the remarks made by the Hon. Mr. Dharamsi. The Municipal Corporation should have the benefit of the Commissioner's presence at the meetings when such emergent times are passed by. Therefore, I agree in the propriety of the amendment proposed by the Hon. Mr. Dharamsi.

The Hon'ble Mr. Wadia said: I have only to add a few words to what has fallen from my hon'ble colleague. The subject of the appointment of a Deputy Municipal Commissioner was brought before the Corporation at the last meeting for consideration. There was then a general expression of opinion that this amendment of the law should be limited to the special existing selection or any situation like it. The presence of the Municipal Commissioner at their meetings was felt to be most essential and desirable in ordinary circumstances, because then and then alone the Corporation can carry on their work expeditiously and with better results than would otherwise be the case. I have much pleasure in supporting the amendment that has been moved by my honourable friend.

The amendment was opposed by Mr. Birdwood, who pointed out that the proposed amendment would only be a half measure and would fail to secure the full measure of relief that was desired; that, presumably, the Municipal Commissioner would not appoint his Deputy unless there was a real pressure of work, and that if the appointment, was needed on any such ground then it ought to be made as helpful as possible. If the Deputy could not attend meetings he could not give the help that was really needed. With reference to the objection that occasions might arise when the presence of the Commissioner would be essential at meetings he pointed out that the Bill would not deprive the Commissioner of the power to attend meetings. He could always attend when necessary.

The motion for the second reading was carried by 12 to 5.

On the consideration of the Bill in detail Mr. Dharamsi renewed his amendment by proposing a clause for giving effect to it for substitution of section 1 of the Bill.

BOILER INSPECTION.

In moving the second reading of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Act, 1891, Mr. Birdwood said: Your Excellency,—It will be in the recollection of this Hon'ble Council that the Bill to amend the Bombay Boiler Inspection Act, 1891, was referred a second time to the Select Committee on the 18th August last for the consideration of certain amendments which are set out at length in the Committee's second report, dated the 5th October last, which, with the present Bill as now amended by the Select Committee, has been a long time in the hands of Hon'ble members. We have as yet received no objections to the amendments finally proposed by the Committee; nor so far as I am aware has there been any unfavourable comment in the public press or otherwise on any of the provisions of the proposed Bill. On the contrary, I have reason to know that the Bill, as it now stands, meets with the approval of those who are specially interested in the working of the Boiler Inspection Act, including not only the Government officers whose duty it is to work the Act, but also the members of the Millowners' Association and the Boiler Commission. I propose, therefore, that with a view to the report of the Select Committee being taken into consideration and the Bill being considered in detail, the Bill be now read a second time.

The Hon'ble Mr. N. N. Wadia said: Your Excellency,—I join in the congratulations which we must feel on this important measure which is the fifth of its kind since it was inaugurated in this Presidency to minimise difficulties which industries are likely to encounter in carrying out their avocations and, therefore, the amendment as now before the Council must be welcomed. Since the Bill was first introduced several other amendments were brought before the Select Committee, no less than seven additional important changes being proposed. Of these three were rejected by the Select Committee, while the remaining have been accepted. In supporting the passing of this Bill I reiterate what has fallen from the Hon'ble mover, that the Millowners' Associations and several bodies who are interested in the working of the Act will fully appreciate the change which has been brought about through the channel of the Select Committee and, therefore, beg to support it.

The motion for the second reading was carried. The Bill was then considered in detail. In section 4 the word 'for' was substituted for the word 'allowing.' Otherwise, the amendments proposed by the Select Committee were accepted, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE INFANTICIDE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In moving the second reading of the Bill to amend Act VIII. of 1870, as to the Presidency of Bombay, Mr. Birdwood said: Your Excellency,—This Bill was referred to the Select Committee on 12th October last with instructions to report not only on the Bill, but also on the various petitions which had been or might be received regarding it up to a certain date. The Committee has considered the Bill and the petitions appended to its report dated the 3rd instant. We are of opinion that it will be desirable to alter the form of the Bill so as to make it clear that it is not intended to add two new sections to an existing Act of the Governor-General in Council which is capable of general application, but merely to enact certain necessary provisions, to be in force as a local Act only for dealing with the accumulations of certain funds levied under Act VIII. of 1870, which is an Act of the Governor-General in Council, in force in this Presidency, and for applying those accumulations in a manner for which no provision is made thereby. This object can be secured by embodying the requisite provisions in sections to be numbered as sections of the proposed local Act instead of as Sections 8 and 9 of Act VIII. of 1870, and by the omission of the words "or hereafter" in Section 1 in the Bill, as thus altered. The Bombay Government has received the sanction of H. E. the Governor-General under Section 5 of the Indian Councils Act of 1892 to the introduction of the Bill; but in giving effect to that sanction the course recommended by the Committee seems preferable to that adopted when the Bill was introduced; and I have no doubt it will be accepted by the Hon. Council. The Committee recommend, however, a more important change in the principle of the Bill itself. Instead of handing over the accumulations of the two infanticide funds in the Kaira and Ahmedabad Districts to the Local Boards of those Districts as at first proposed, we now propose that, in deference to the expressed wishes of the members of the two castes interested, the funds be retained in the hands of Government, and be expended by Government for the exclusive benefit of the members of the Lewa and Kadva Kunbi castes in each district in such manner as Government may, from time to time, find it expedient. Certain specific proposals have been made by the petitioners as to the purposes to which the funds should be applied. The Committee see no objection to most of these proposals, but doubt the expediency of giving effect to any of them in the Bill; for not only are the petitioners not unanimous in their recommendations, but it seems also to be unadvisable to lay down hard and fast rules regarding the objects on which money should be spent. I may add that it appeared to the Committee that, as time went on, the circumstances of the communities to be benefited might be so changed that the necessity might present itself for expending the funds on objects different from those now contemplated. However, I must admit that it is not clear on what objects, except educational objects, the funds could well be spent. I am sorry the Hon. Mr. Mehta is prevented by illness from being present. He was to have moved that the word "educational" should be subsituted before the word "benefit" in lines 18 and 30 of Section 1 of the Bill. This amendment has been considered by the Executive Government, and Government are prepared to accept it, but I doubt the necessity of going further and specifying the precise manner in which the funds should be managed. With these remarks I move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. Mr. Javerilal U. Yajnik begged to express his general concurrence in the recommendations of the Select Committee. The Committee had materially altered the Bill both in form and substance. The two new provisions, with a slight modification, were calculated, in his opinion, to meet the wishes of the classes most interested in them as conveyed in their petitions. Out of the three main points referred to in those petitions, the revised Bill had given effect to two of them by providing, in the first place, for the accumulations of the funds lying in the hands of Government, in lieu of the proposal to hand them over to the Local Boards of the Ahmedabad and Kaira districts, and, secondly, by directing that the funds or the income thereof shall be spent exclusively for the benefit of the classes who have alone been contributors to the funds. And now that the third point is conceded by the Hon. mover of the Bill by his acceptance of the amendment of the Hon. Mr. P. Mehta, namely, that the funds should be administered for the educational benefit of the two classes, the Bill would meet all the three prayers of the petitioners and become as complete and acceptable to them as they could possibly desire. Mr. Javerilal said he had much pleasure in voting for the Bill as now amended.

The Bill was then read a second time and considered in detail, when Mr. Mehta's amendment was, on the motion of Mr. Birdwood, adopted. The further stages of the Bill were then proceeded with, and it was read a third time and passed.

"FLOODS OF ELOQUENCE" AT CORPORATION MEETINGS.

The Hon'ble Mr. Nugent said: Before the debate closes I should like to make a few remarks, because it seems that there are one or two points which have been overlooked by the proposer and seconder of the amendment. I certainly do not feel able to give my assent to the amendment. The Hon'ble Mr. Dharamsi and the Hon'ble Mr. Javerilal seem too much disposed to prophecy smooth things, and to suggest that when these plague clouds have rolled by we shall be free from every stress of Municipal work or emergency. But I should be disinclined to take so favourable a view. It is probable that the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner may at present be temporary, only perhaps four and not more than six or eight months, or whatever time this pestilence remains ruling over us. But the work of the Commissioner has such a tendency to increase that probably before long it will be essential to have a permanent Deputy Commissioner. I quite admit that as soon as we have both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner in ordinary times, the main function of the Deputy would be to perform the least important and routine work which devolves at present on the Commissioner; being the junior officer he will naturally take the routine work. But at the same time it would be necessary that whenever it was requisite in the view of the Commissioner that he should be temporarily relieved of that portion of his duty which consists of attending meetings of the Standing Committee and the Municipal Corporation, he should be empowered to authorise his deputy to attend on his behalf. Well, now, it does not follow that because the Commissioner temporarily empowers his deputy to appear on his behalf at those meetings that power should be permanent. The fact that the Commissioner will have the power to authorise his deputy to attend on his behalf will not take away in any sense the power of the Commissioner to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee and the Corporation when he thinks necessary. Mr. Dharamsi, it appears, considers that the attendance of the Commissioner at meetings is one of the most important part of his duties, but I am rather disposed to doubt the accuracy of the view. I have never been a member of the Corporasion and have never had the privilege of attending any of its meetings, so that my information is based solely on newspaper reports. Judging from what I see in the newspapers, there seems to me an endless cascade of conversation at these meetings and immense floods of eloquence which very often lead to nothing at all. This can only be regarded as an enormous waste of power. The Municipal Commissioner should of course be present at some of the meetings when important questions are brought up and where his opinion may be required. But I do not see that his attendance at all the meetings is necessary, for, as far as I can learn from the newspaper reports, it frequently happens that the Commissioner does not even open his mouth. I also learn from the Hon'ble Mr. Javerilal that the Municipality is largely guided by the advice and opinion of the Municipal Commissioner. That is a statement which I think requires to be accepted with considerable reserve. I am not quite so sure as Mr. Javerilal that members of the Corporation do always accept the views of the Commissioner. The object of this Bill is to give the Commissioner the power of delegating to a deputy his work at the meetings of the Standing Committee and the Corporation whenever it is deemed necessary or desirable. He will thus be relieved of attending meetings when his time can be more profitably employed in work of far greater importance. I think everyone will admit that the superintendence of the sanitary arrangements and other plans being carried out for removing the pestilence that now surrounds us, is more valuable work than sitting hour after hour every week in the Municipal Hall listening to inordinately long speeches, some of which may be of great value, but others of which are anything but valuable.

The amendment of Mr. Dharamsi was then put and negatived. The Bill was put through its remaining stage and passed. On the motion of Mr. Birdwood the title was altered from "to amend the law relating to the Municipal Government of the City of Bombay" to "a Bill to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act 1888."

The President then adjourned the Council *sine die*.

CALCUTTA COMMERCIAL NOTES.

A COMMERCIAL correspondent of the *Pioneer* writing from Calcutta, on Saturday, says:—We have had a rather stirring time this week. The announcement that Calcutta was to remain open as a Pilgrim Port and that elaborate arrangements were in progress for the conveyance of pilgrims to Diamond Harbour aroused a general feeling of indignation among almost all sections of the community. It was felt that the Government wholly failed to realise the very grave risk they were running by such a course of conduct and there was considerable public excitement. At the Medical Board on Monday the members declined to discuss this matter. Meetings were held by the Jute Manufactures and Tea Associations on Tuesday, and strong protests were addressed by them to the Government, as also by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. A requisition to the Sheriff was drawn up on Tuesday asking him to convene a meeting to consider the policy of Government, with reference to the plague and especially with reference to the proposed transport of pilgrims through the Calcutta Municipality to Diamond Harbour and their shipment therefrom. This requisition was signed by everybody on Change, by all the leading barristers, and was in course of signature by the members of the Trades Association when the Government Notification was issued restricting the pilgrim traffic somewhat. This notification gave very general satisfaction, and under the circumstances the requisition has not been proceeded with; but it depends entirely on how this notification is worked, whether it becomes really operative or is one of those enactments more honoured in the breach than in the observance. There is a feeling that in Sir Alexander Mackenzie we have a Lieutenant-Governor who will stand no nonsense, and should it unhappily ever come to this that he should be in conflict with the Government of India regarding the measures to be taken against the plague, he will have the community to a man at his back. There was another field day at the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on Friday and I regret very much to see that the 'little rift within the lute" to which I alluded some months ago shows signs more of widening than of closing up. It will be remembered that in September last the Government of India before sanctioning an expenditure of some 13 lakhs on additional works at the Jetties and the docks rendered necessary by a scheme under which the imports were to be landed at the Jetties and the exports to be shipped from the Docks asked the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce for the opinion of the Chamber on the subject. Instead of calling a general meeting or circulating the letter for the opinons of the members at large, the Committee apparently intended to answer this question themselves. But it having transpired that such a letter had been received, a special general meeting was requisitioned for and the matter came up for discussion. The result of this meetting was to negative the proposal to divert the exports to the Docks by a very narrow majority. Instead of remaining satisfied with this decision and communicating to the Government that the Chamber were pretty equally divided on the subject, the Committee issued a voting card to all the members of the Chamber to take their opinions upon the subject with the result that by a narrow majority, approval was accorded to the scheme. It appears that while waiting for this sanction the Port Commissioners had virtually committed themselves to the expenditure in question and the Government accorded sanction to a scheme which, in reality, had been carried out. Upon this a requisition was sent in to call a special meeting of the Chamber to discuss the Dock question. Mr. McDonald, who may be described as the leader of the opposition, somewhat impaired his speech by giving notice of the following resolution:—

"That His Excellency the Viceroy be asked to receive a deputation from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Lyall, Trelawny, Becker, Bailey and the mover of the resolution. And that in the meantime the following telegram be sent to the London Chamber of Commerce:—

'Special Meeting Chamber of Commerce majority Members protest Government sanctioning compulsory use Kidderpore Docks for exports. Advise Secretary State stop action until full inquiries can be made by Home Government.'"

On the meeting being opened the President put it to them whether such a resolution should be allowed, and it was negatived by a very large majority. Sentiment is a great factor in matters of this kind, and Mr. McDonald unfortunately at the outset created a prejudice against his case which was very strong upon its merits and which no one attempted to answer. His speech, nevertheless, is one of the most important contributions ever made to the Dock question. It is an extremely forcible exposition of the case, and neither the President nor any member of the Committee attempted to answer it. Messrs. Robert Steel and H. B. H. Turner, who, be it remembered, originally recommended this white elephant of a Dock, got up and made speeches which had nothing to do with the case; and therefore Mr. McDonald's scathing indictment of, I may almost say, everybody in general remains practically unanswered; in the result his motion was lost by 34 to 18, that is to say, that only about one-third of the Chamber troubled themselves about the question. An analysis of the votes would probably show that the 18 firms are those who would be adversely affected by the scheme, and that the majority of the other 34 would have little or nothing to do with the Docks.

ROWLAND'S ODONTO or Pearl Dentifrice whitens the teeth, prevents and arrests decay, and sweetens the breath; is free from any acid or gritty ingredients, and being most beautifully perfumed, it is the most delightful tooth powder in use. Sold by Chemists and Stores. Ask for ROWLAND'S ODONTO of 28, Hatton Garden, London and avoid worthless and noxious imitations.

THE EPIDEMIC.

THE Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending, 6 a.m., yesterday, give the following results:—

	Wards.	Attacks.	Deaths.
A	Upper Colaba	2	1
	Middle and Lower Colaba	1	0
	Fort, Southern	0	0
	Fort, Northern	0	1
	Esplanade	0	0
B	Mandvi	0	0
	Chukla	1	0
	Umarkhadi	0	1
	Dongri	2	2
C	Market	0	0
	Dhobi Talao	2	3
	Fanaswadi	3	0
	Bhuleshwar	4	1
	Khara Talao	1	2
	Khumbarwada	1	2
D	Khetwadi	3	2
	Girgaum	2	2
	Chaupati	3	1
	Walkeshwar	4	3
	Mahalakshmi	3	3
E	Mazagon	5	4
	Tadwadi	10	2
	Second Nagpada	2	0
	Kamatipura	4	4
	Tardeo	8	4
	Byculla	10	13
	First Nagpada	2	0
F	Parel	8	6
	Sewri	2	1
	Sion	1	5
G	Mahim	23	5
	Worli	0	1
	Water Division	0	0
	Non-Resident and unknown	0	0
	Parsee Hospital	0	3
	Jain Hospital	0	0
	Arthur Road Hospital	0	3
	St. George's Hospital	0	0
	Servants Hospital	0	1
	J J Hospital	0	1
	Hindu Hospital	0	2
	House of Correction	0	0
	Total	107	79

The total mortality from all causes during the period was 206.

Nine convalescent patients were transferred from the Arthur Road Hospital to the Government House Convalescent Home on Tuesday last.

At half-past 10 o'clock, on Tuesday morning, Mrs. Briggs, a Eurasian, aged sixty years, died in her room on the first floor of a house at Ripon Road, without any known relatives in Bombay. The Municipal Medical Officer, in charge of the ward, having certified that the death was due to the bubonic fever, the body was ordered to be disposed of.

1,050 persons left Bombay yesterday morning by sea for their native places.

A sepoy attached to the Criminal Investigation Department was attacked with the bubonic fever on Tuesday.

A Fever Hospital for the Khoja community only has been open at the Connaught Road, near the Victoria Gardens, Dr. Ismail Janmahomed being the medical man in charge.

During the twenty-four hours ending, at 6 o'clock, yesterday morning, no patient was admitted into the Parsee Fever Hospital, but two patients died, leaving twenty-three under treatment.

During the same period twelve patients were admitted into the Arthur Road Hospital, twelve died, and nine were tranferred to the Government House Hospital, leaving 93 patients under treatment.

Three patients were admitted into the St. George's Hospital, yesterday, including the one who had been kept under observation and who was yesterday transferred to the plague ward. All these fresh cases are said to be of a somewhat serious nature. In these three patients one is a railway employe, one a European merchant, and the third is a Eurasian.

The pilgrims who have been left behind are being collected every day from different parts of the city and sent to the Frere Road Moosaferkhana. When they are collected in sufficient numbers to fill a railway waggon, they will be despatched to Nassik under police escort.

On Tuesday morning a premature born female child was found in a water closet at Mahomedan street, and on an inquiry being made by the police, the mother was found sick in a room attached to the closet. It transpired that the death of her two sons and her husband had taken place within the last few days from the bubonic fever, leaving her quite destitute.

On Tuesday evening there were twelve cases of bubonic fever in the European General Hospital isolated ward; of these Guard Branche died, and the number was reduced to 11—5 males 5 females, and one child. Two more admissions were made yesterday, and the total number of bubonic fever patients is now 13. They are all progressing favourably.

THE ARTHUR ROAD HOSPITAL.

TABULATED RESULTS OF WORKING.

Months.	No. admitted	Deaths.	Recovered.	Percentage of total mortality.	Percentage of mortality excluding moribund cases.
October	88	46	42	52·23	40·84
November	27	18	9	66·67	50·00
December	182	135	47	74·12	61·47
January	277	191	86	69·00	54·00
Total	574	*390	184	...	...

* Of these 176 died within 24 hours and 119 within 48 hours.
Average total mortality rate for 4 months—65·50.
Average mortality rate for 4 months excluding moribund cases—51·57.

THE AUSTRIAN LLOYD AND ITS PASSENGERS.

Mr. Scarpa, acting Agent of the Austrian Lloyd's Steam Navigation Company, writes to us that with a view to give every facility to passengers by Austrian Lloyd's steamers, it has been arranged that, until further notice, passengers may proceed on board on the morning of the day of departure, and the usual meals will be served on that day without any extra charge. Steamers as a rule proceed on the voyage from the Victoria Dock where passengers are to embark. If in exceptional cases the departures should take place from the stream, passengers and their luggage will be conveyed on board by a steam launch from the Ballard Pier.

IMPORTED CASES.

Considerable alarm has been caused in Mazagon by the importation of 7 cases of plague of a very bad type from Thana. The cases were concealed until Monday when information came to the Municipal authorities. A guard has been put on the house to prevent the sick people being removed elsewhere.

FEVER RELIEF FUND.

The following sums have been received in addition to the subscriptions detailed yesterday:—

Dr. D. J. Mantri	Rs. 20

THE JAIN HOSPITAL.

In the week ending the 21st instant, there were six new admissions and five deaths. One died within fifteen minutes of admission, while (1) Doorgashanker Velji and (2) Jadavaji Gopalji were discharged cured. Seven patients are now under treatment.

A HINT FROM BENGAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—In this grave crisis, when the plague is decimating the people, I appeal to the panic-stricken members of the community to turn their minds from geonomic theories, military cordons, and segregation panaceas, and to observe a very simple rule to which my *guruji* enjoins every householder to give a trial. Let fire be maintained in every house without allowing it to be extinguished, and let it be fed by fuel of Bel tree and ghee of cow's milk at specified hours during the day and night, when all the family members should gather round the fire and inhale the redolent air. The well-to-do people may add chips of sandalwood, and the charitably-disposed public may raise funds for performing the simple affair in the midst of bazaars and public squares. This remedy tried for a week, without intermission, assures my *guruji*, will tell its own achievement by a perceptible reduction in the number of fresh daily attacks and by saving the majority of the people already attacked by the fell disease. Let pride and self-sufficiency stand aside for a time, and let the homely remedy be given a trial in every household for a week or ten days. May the Giver of all good save the people, by persuading them to adopt this simple way of purifying the atmosphere, which has been seriously poisoned, and which quarantine cannot subdue.—Yours, &c.,

BIHARI LAL MUHLAGI.

Sibpur, Bengal, Feb. 21.

ASTROLOGY AND THE PESTILENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—Referring to the paragraph appearing in your to-day's issue under the heading of "Two Parsi Astrologers on the Pestilence," I beg to point out that my calculations sufficiently show that there should be a somewhat declining scale of the cases and death-rates after the 18th instant. My data point to the conclusion that there will be a material difference after 27th April, the day on which Jupiter resumes his course, but that in consequence of Saturn's retrogression from 11th March till 29th July next, we cannot expect to see the real end—at least until the end of July. I predicted that the rate was bound to increase at least till 17th February, and so it did. I also showed that the decline was probable after 18th February, and that again proves true.—Yours, &c.,

Feb. 24. BERAMJI BEMANJI.

POONA.

The City Municipal office returns, for the 24 hours ended at 8 a.m., on Tuesday, show the following results:—

Peths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Imported	0	
Local	4	
Sukerwar	1	1
Kasba	1	1
Sudaseo	2	1
Total	4	3
Total up to date	236	217

Out of the two cases in Sadasev Peth one was rescued and carried off by a mob near the Reay Market.

The Suburban Municipal office returns for the above 24 hours show the following results:—

Locality	Cases.	Deaths.
Imported	3	
Local	2	
Connaught Road	2	2
Plague Hospital	3	0
Total up to date	224	144

Two of the patients at the Plague Hospital were discharged cured on Tuesday one was Sharipati Manajee from the city of Poona and the other was Dhondi Mahadoo who was discovered affected with the plague amongst the arrivals from Bombay on Sunday. One of the two deaths against Connaught Road occurred at the Plague Hospital.

THE PLAGUE AT KARACHI.

KARACHI, FEB. 20.

There were 44 cases of plague to noon, on the 19th instant and 38 deaths, bringing the totals up to 1,673 cases and 1,536 deaths. Of to-day's deaths the Hindus record 15 and the Mahomedans 23.

The health in the segregation camp is said to be good, no deaths occurring there now. The Lyari still shows the highest mortality, imported cases having occurred in various parts. Every effort is being made to strengthen the utility of the police cordon by examining carriages passing to and from the infected areas. Two more gentlemen have been inoculated with the prophylatic lymph, Mr. Strachan, the Engineer to the Municipality, being one. The powers given by the Epidemic Diseases Act are being fully used to stop the spread of the plague.

BOMBAY PORT TRUST.

THE following are excerpts from the proceedings of a meeting of the trustees of the Port of Bombay, held on the 16th February:—

Read letter from the Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, dated 12th February 1897, intimating that the Chamber has elected Mr. F. Graham, of Messrs. W. & A. Graham & Co., to act as a Trustee of the Port of Bombay during Mr. R. G. Currie's absence on leave.

Resolution.—To be recorded. Mr. F. Graham is appointed a member of the Harbour and Pilotage and Docks Committees vice Mr. R. G. Currie.

Read letter from Mr. M. C. Lobo, Book-keeper, Secretary's Office, dated 1st February 1897, submitting his application for retirement from the Trustees' service on a retiring pension from 1st April 1897. Read certificate and report by the Secretary, dated 13th February 1897, saying that qualifying service in superior grades has been duly proved for 26 years and 11 months and that a pension not exceeding Rs. 150 per mensem is admissible under article 518 of the Civil Service Regulations, 2nd Edition.

Resolution.—Mr. M. C. Lobo, Book-keeper in the Secretary's Office, is permitted to retire from the service with effect from 1st April 1897 or from such subsequent date as he may be relieved of his duties. The care, accuracy, and industry Mr. Lobo has shown in the performance of his duties during the long period he has held the responsible position of Chief Book-keeper merit the highest praise, and the Trustees part with his services with great regret.

Read letter from the Traffic Manager, dated 11th February 1897, forwarding an application from Mr. Hajee Ellias Ally for an extention of 5 feet to the north of the plot that the Trustees have agreed to lease to him by their Resolution No. 20 of 19th January 1897, and recommending that the additional land be granted on the same terms as the original plot. Read memorandum from the Engineer, dated 16th February 1897, saying that he is not aware of any objection to the proposed increase in the width of the plot, and forwarding an amended plan showing the total area of land to be leased to be 400 square yards.

Resolution.—With the additional strip now applied for, the plot measures 400 square yards, and the lease may be granted on the terms already sanctioned.

Read letter from Mr. Noorbhoy Adamjee, dated 1st February 1897, addressed to the Traffic Manager, requesting, with reference to the lease granted to him in Trustees' Resolution No. 28, dated 26th January 1897, that he may be granted a width of 45 feet instead of 42 feet as sanctioned in the Trustees' Resolution. Read memorandum from the Traffic Manager, dated 2nd February 1897, saying that he has no objection to the request being complied with, and suggesting that the Engineer be asked to prepare a plan showing the larger area required.

Read memorandum from the Enginer, dated 12th February 1897, forwarding an amended plan showing the total area with the additional area now required to be 397 4-9 square yards, and saying that the necessity for deep foundations is increased the nearer the applicant goes to the new Reclamation, and advising that the applicant should be made to understand this very clearly. Submitted Trustees Resolution dated 26th January 1897.

Resolution.—with the addition of the strip now referred to, the area of plot is 397 4-9 square yards. The lease should be granted on the terms previously sanctioned and attention should again be drawn to the Engineer's remarks regarding the foundation of the buildings to be erected on the plot.

Read letter from the Traffic Manager, dated 9th February 1897, requesting sanction to the employment, temporarily, of 4 clerks and 2 peons in addition to the present staff to look after the duty-paid and uncleared goods warehoused in the extra sheds in the Docks taken up for the accommodation of the present large stocks, with effect from 1st February 1897 and for such period as the Dock sheds are used as warehouses.

Resolution.—Sanctioned.

Read letter from the Secretary asking that sanction may be given to the staff in the Account Branch of his office being increased by another assistant book-keeper on a salary of Rs. 120—10—150, and another clerk to check and prepare analises of pay sheets &c., on Rs. 30 rising by increments every four years, under the usual conditions applicable to men of his grade, to Rs 45, and explaining the necessity for the appointments.

Resolution.—The employment of the additional establishment applied for in sanctioned with effect from 1st March 1897. In conformity with the usual practice the pay of the assistant book-keeper should be fixed at Rs 120—6—150.

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Bombay Branch, dated 9th February, asking that the Trustees will subscribe to the Fund.

Resolution.—The purposes to which the monies held in trust by the Board may be applied are strictly limited by the Port Trust Act, and the Trustees regret it is not in their power to contribute to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Reply should be sent accordingly.

The following were amongst the papers laid on the table:—

REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR 1896-97 AS COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1895-96.

——	Bunders.	Docks.	Port Dept.	Other Items.	Total.
For February—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
From 1st to 12th Feb., 1897	66,388	70,873	5,163	....	1,42,424
From 1st to 12th Feb., 1896	68,140	89,590	6,585	19	1,64,334
	Dr. 1,752	Dr. 18,717	Dr. 1,422	Dr. 19	Dr. 21,910
Deficit in previous months	Dr. 12,281	Dr. 58,704	Dr. 3,112	Dr. 3,866	Dr. 77,963
Total deficit to 12th February 1897	Dr. 14,033	Dr. 77,421	Dr. 4,534	Dr. 3,885	Dr. 99,873

PILOTAGE STATEMENT.

	For week ending 12th Feb. 1897.	Total from 1st Apl. 1896 to 12th Feb. 1897.	For week ending 12th Feb. 1896.	Total from 1st Apl. 1895 to 12th Feb. 1896.
Vessels piloted into harbour ..	18	812	23	863
" " out of harbour	15	817	22	869
" transported	6	510	14	508
" attended to	1	71	...	61
" warped	...	48	...	77

WRITERS AND READERS.

SINCE her arrival in England Miss Olive Schreiner has been in negotiation with the publishers in respect to her new story. It is now understood that Mr. Fisher Unwin has acquired the rights of the volume. Its text may perhaps be indicated by the question, "If Christ at this moment Came to South Africa?"

Sir H. H. Johnston begins the book on which he is now engaged with a historical sketch of Nyassaland and British Central Africa generally. This includes a detailed account of events during the last seven years. Then he deals with the native races and languages, the European settlers and the missionaries. Next come chapters on the fauna, flora, minerals, and scenery of the country. In closing, Sir Henry sums up the future prospects of British Central Africa.

"We are sorry to hear that Miss Beatrice Harraden has not benefited in health by her return to England to the extent she had hoped. She has been able to pass the sheets of her new book, "Hilda Strafford," which Messrs. Blackwood will publish near the end of the month. She has not, however, done anything towards the completion of another novel which she had expected to finish in May last. Miss Harraden is at present staying at Bournemouth.

The late Dean Church's Occasional Papers will be published shortly by Messrs. Macmillan. As his daughter explains in a preface, these are a selection of reviews and other papers written by the dean for the *Guardian*, the *Saturday Review* and the *Times*. To this there is an exception in the case of a Fragment on Elizabeth which has not appeared anywhere. Dr. Church, it seems, began to write for the *Guardian* in 1846. He continued a regular contributor until 1871 when he came to St. Paul's. Between 1861 and 1871 he was a constant writer in the *Saturday*. There is no complete record of his contributions to the *Times*, but three examples are given.

A book of which the publishing price is £100 is hardly meant for the general reader. Such a work is being prepared by Messrs. Appleton, the well known American publishing house, and some of the 500 copies are coming here. Every collector of Oriental ceramics is aware of the unmatched set which Mr. W. T. Walters, an American gentleman, has gathered together. This book was undertaken, quite regardless of expense, to illustrate Oriental ceramic art by means of that collection. The colour plates represent years of incessant labour, and the text by Dr. Bushell, of the British Legation at Peking, stands for half a life-time of study.

The selected letters and speeches of the late Lord Carnarvon on Imperial Defence will be published by Mr. Murray. His lordship was a politician with great literary tastes, as witness his translation into English verse of the "Prometheus Bound." Sir G. Syndenham Clarke, who edits the present volume, writes some account of Lord Carnarvon's efforts in regard to the defence of the Empire. He was president of the Commission which sat in 1879 to investigate the subject. He did not regard this as a temporary task, to be discharged and then forgotten, but merely as one item in years of work. As much as is amply apparent in these speeches, a number of which were delivered in the House of Lords.

As will be remembered, Mr. Ernest Williams created some stir with his volume "Made in Germany;" now he is publishing, through Messrs Henry a pamphlet in which he replies to the critics of his campaign. He calls the pamphlet "The German Menace and its English Apologists." The contents refer to speeches made by at least three members of the Government—Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Ritchie. It was Lord Rosebery who first carried the subject on to the platform. Sir William Harcourt and Mr. John Morley are two members of the Opposition for whom Mr. Williams has a reply. Lord Farrer and Sir Courtenay Boyle also come under his critical notice.

It seems as if the Centenary Edition of the works of Burns, edited by Messrs. Henley and Henderson, will not be completed until about a year after the death-centenary of the poet (July 1896). Messrs. Jack, of Edinburgh, the publishers, announce that Volume III., which appears at a long interval from Volume II., will be published immediately. The notes extending to over 200 pages, will, they say, contain much novel information about the origin of Burns's songs, from authentic and hitherto unknown MSS. (in the possession of the Earl of Rosebery, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, and others), and various important sources wholly unutilised by earlier editors. The fourth and concluding volume of Mr Wallace's edition of Dr. Chamber's Burns, by the way, has just been published, also in Edinburgh, but, of course, by Messrs. W. and R. Chambers.

Our monthly contemporary the *Author* has been delving into the records of the past to lay before its readers the story of the difficulties of book-buying in the early fifties. A long account appears in the February number, just issued, of the lively and interesting correspondence that took place at that time on the subject of what percentage a bookseller should have. The question was rendered more difficult because at that period the great wholesale publishing houses, it appears, had "interest" in the retailing establishments of Paternoster-row, and therefore, it concerned them that the bookseller's profit should be as great as possible. The question was agitated by Mr. John Chapman, himself a bookseller and publisher, as well as the owner and editor of the *Westminster Review*. We are told of a large meeting of authors at this gentleman's house, 124, Strand, on May 4, 1852, at which Mr. Charles Dickens presided. The authors took up an uncompromising position, declaring that free trade ought to be applied to books as to all other articles of commerce.

For it must be understood that the controversy was one which ranged free-traders and protectionists against each other, the latter being represented by an association which laid down regulations as to the price at which books should be sold, and withdrew the privileges of the trade to such booksellers as acted contrary to these regulations by selling at cheaper rates. The *Times* calculated the booksellers' profit at 33 per cent., while Messrs. Bickers and Bush of Leicester-square, and a great many other booksellers, could live content, and desired to, on 15 per cent. Among other evidences of the keen *esprit de corps* which the controversy aroused, there is quoted in the *Auhtor* article the opinions then elicited—all in favour of free trade—of Tennyson, Mr. Herbert Spencer, Darwin, Carlyle, Leigh Hunt, Mr. Gladstone and many others. The upshot of the dispute was that it was agreed that a Commission of three—Lord Campbell, Dean Milman, and Mr. Grote—should act as arbitrators on the question; and after hearing both sides, they decided that the regulations were unrasonable and inexpedient, and contrary to the freedom which ought to prevail in commercial transactions. As a result, the protective associations in England and Scotland ceased to exist, and booksellers were enabled to sell to the public as cheaply as they cared.

Mr. Heinemann will shortly publish two travel books. The first is by Mr. H. C. Thomson, who accompanied the Chitral expedition, and subsequently wrote an account of it. This time he has made a journey through the Western Balkans, and he gives his impressions under the title "The Outgoing Turk." The second book refers to Africa, and describes a journey made up the Chobe and down the Okovango Rivers by Dr. Schultz and Mr. Augustus Hammar, the latter a civil engineer.

A series of volumes dealing with matters of practical theology is announced by Messrs. Longmans. The volumes will be written by various well known authors, and they will appear under the general title "The Oxford Library of Practical Theology." There are two editors, Canon Newbolt and the Rev. F. E. Brightman, of the Pusey House, Oxford. This series, while aiming at precise and careful treatment of the vital truths of religion, will appeal rather to "that large body of devout laymen" who may not be attracted by the more solid treatises which already exist. It is thought that they would gladly welcome specially written and well considered volumes on subjects in which they are so deeply interested.

Messrs. J. M. Dent and Co. will publish the report of an inquiry into the condition of the unemployed conducted from Toynbee Hall during the winter of 1895-6. The report has been compiled by Mr. Arthur V. Woodworth, Ph.D., and is based upon information collected from local enquirers by Viscouni Fitzharris. The general plans which have resulted in the report were formulated by a committee consisting of Sir John Gorst, the Rev. Canon Barnett, Mr. Charles Booth, and Mr. Ernest Eves.

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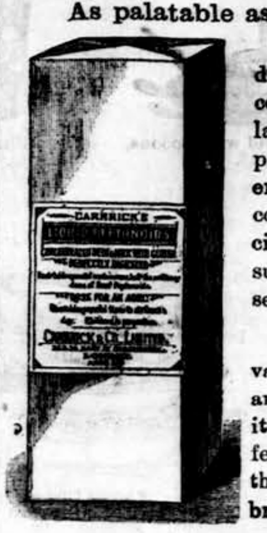

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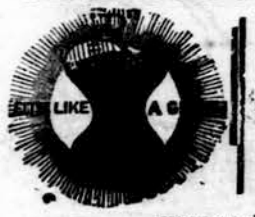

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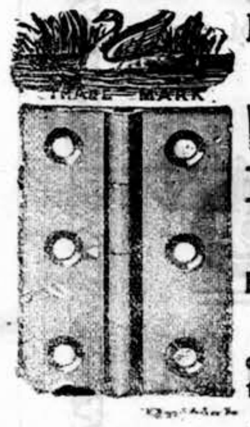

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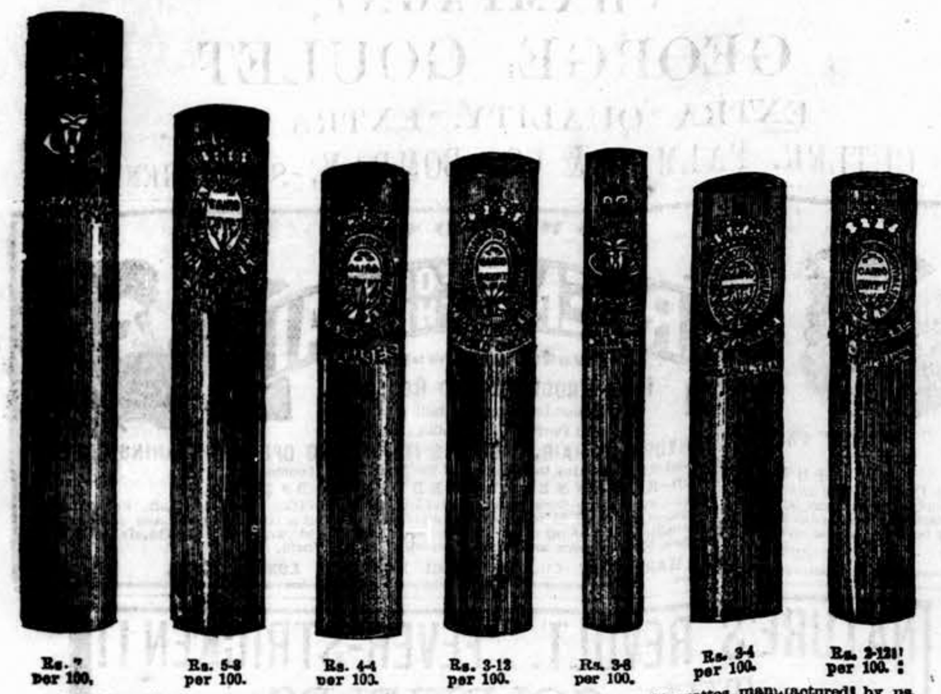

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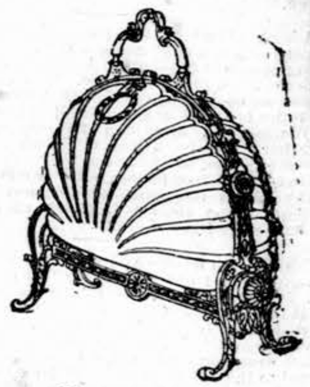

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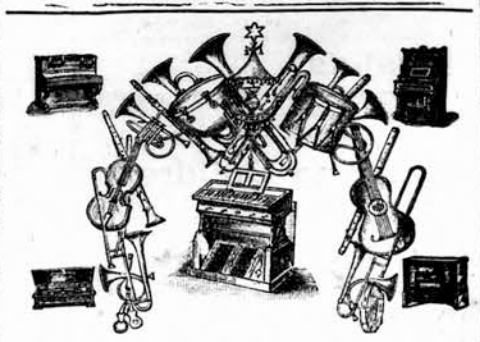

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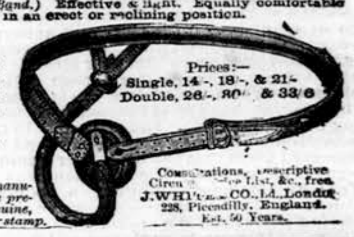

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